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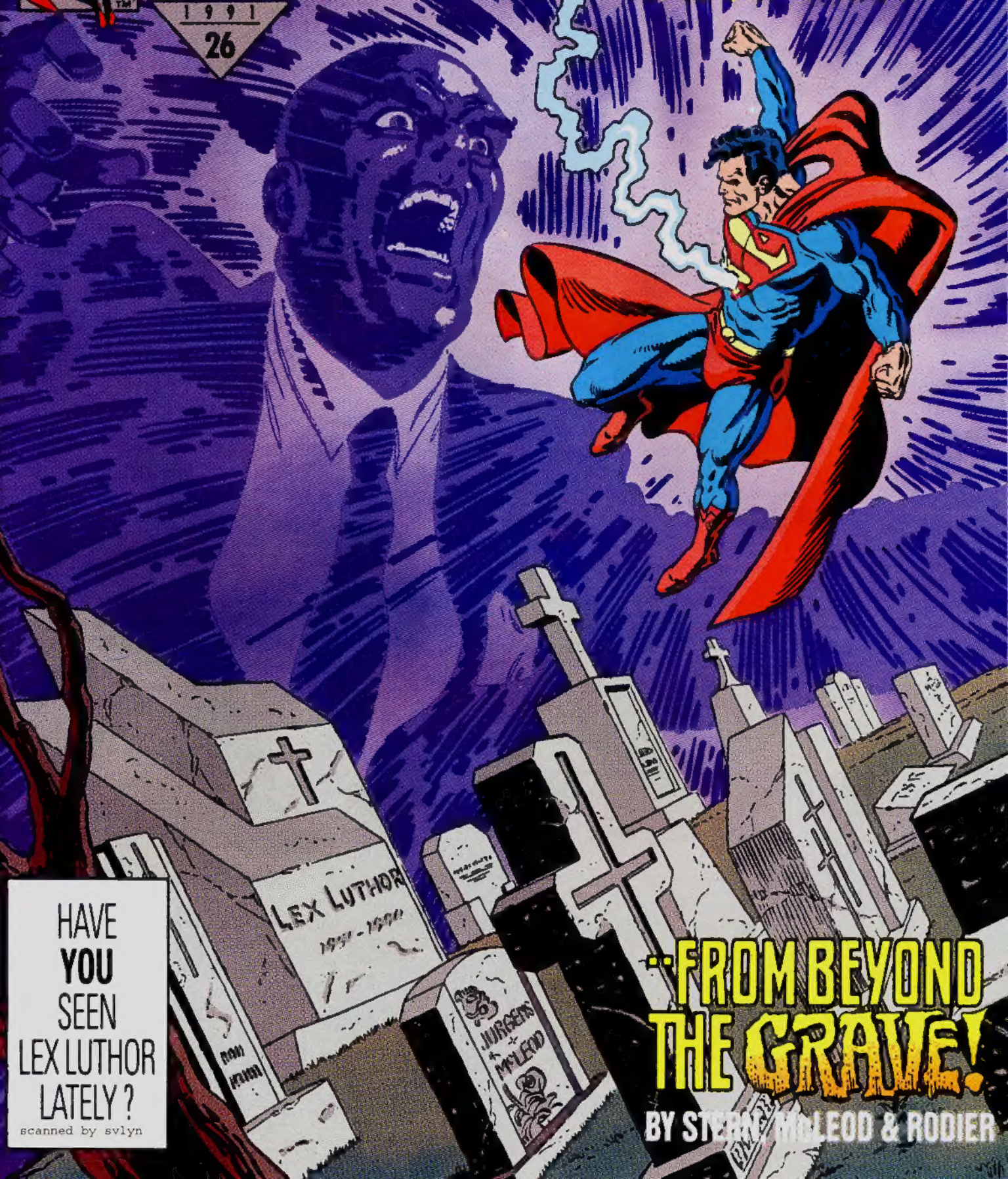
1991
26

SUPERMAN

IN ACTION COMICS

LEX LUTHOR STRIKES AGAIN--

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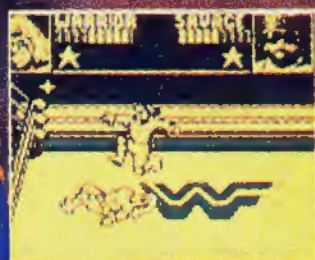
HAVE
YOU
SEEN
LEX LUTHOR
LATELY?

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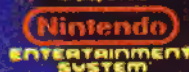


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the GHOST of LUTHOR



YOU DIDN'T
REALLY THINK
YOU'D SEEN
THE LAST OF
ME...

...DID YOU,
SUPERMAN?

ROGER
STERN
WRITER

BOB
MCLEOD
PENCILLER

DENIS
RODIER
INKER

BILL
OAKLEY
LETTERER

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JERRY SIEGEL
& JOE SHUSTER
CREATORS

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YOU COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO FOOLISH AS TO THINK THAT I WOULD STOP BEING A THREAT... JUST BECAUSE I WAS DYING?!

A DYING MAN, AFTER ALL, HAS NOTHING TO LOSE.

AND I STILL HAVE PLENTY OF KRYPTONITE UP MY SLEEVE!



NO!
NO, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!



!UHH-UH!

NO...



DOES IT HURT, LITTLE MAN?

DO YOU FEEL THE ICY GRIP OF DEATH CLOSING IN ON YOU?

GOOD!

YOU WERE THE DEATH OF ME, SUPERMAN... IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I RETURN THE FAVOR!





ONE DAY, VERY SOON NOW, YOU ARE GOING TO DIE, SUPERMAN!

AND YOU'LL KNOW WHO'S BEHIND IT, WON'T YOU? OH, YES...

...IN FACT, EVERYONE IN METROPOLIS WILL KNOW... BUT NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVE IT!

I'LL NOT BE ARRESTED FOR YOUR DEATH, SUPERMAN.

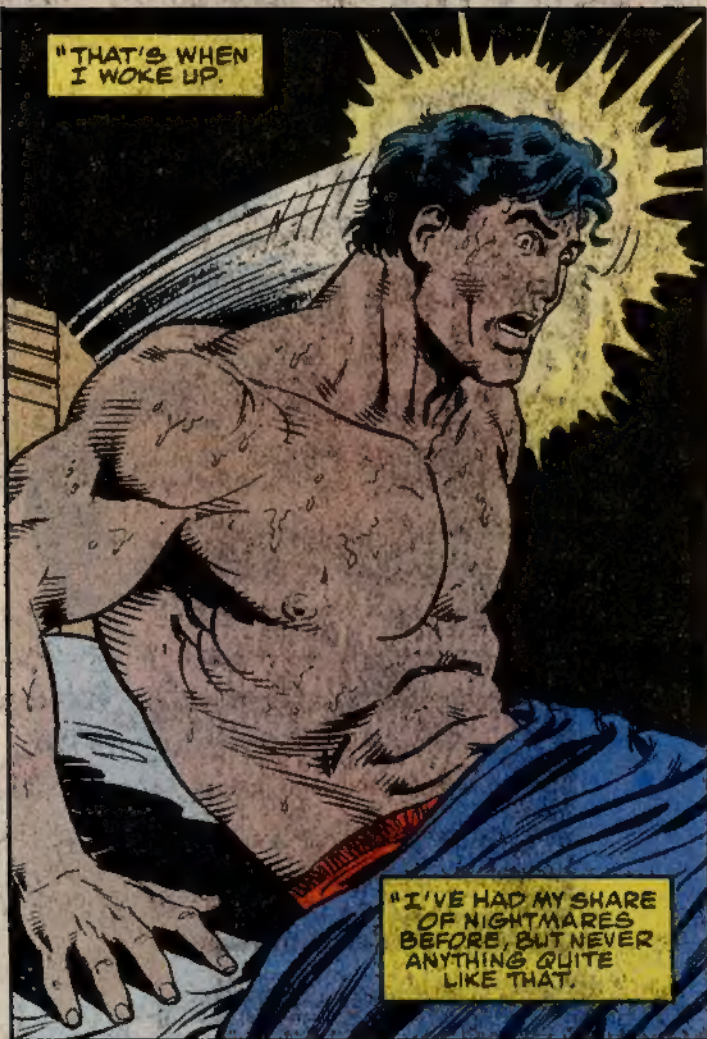
NO, I'LL NEVER BE ARRESTED AGAIN. AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T ARREST A DEAD MAN...

...AND THAT'S WHAT I AM... A DEAD MAN... JUST LIKE YOU WILL BE... SOON!

I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, VERY SOON... ON THE OTHER SIDE!



"THAT'S WHEN I WOKE UP."



"I'VE HAD MY SHARE OF NIGHTMARES BEFORE, BUT NEVER ANYTHING QUITE LIKE THAT."

"I WAS LITERALLY IN A COLD SWEAT... AND I DON'T NORMALLY PERSPIRE."



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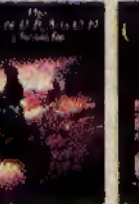
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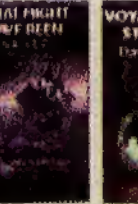
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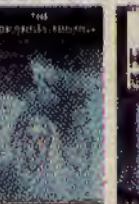
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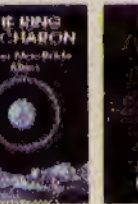
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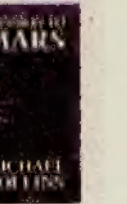
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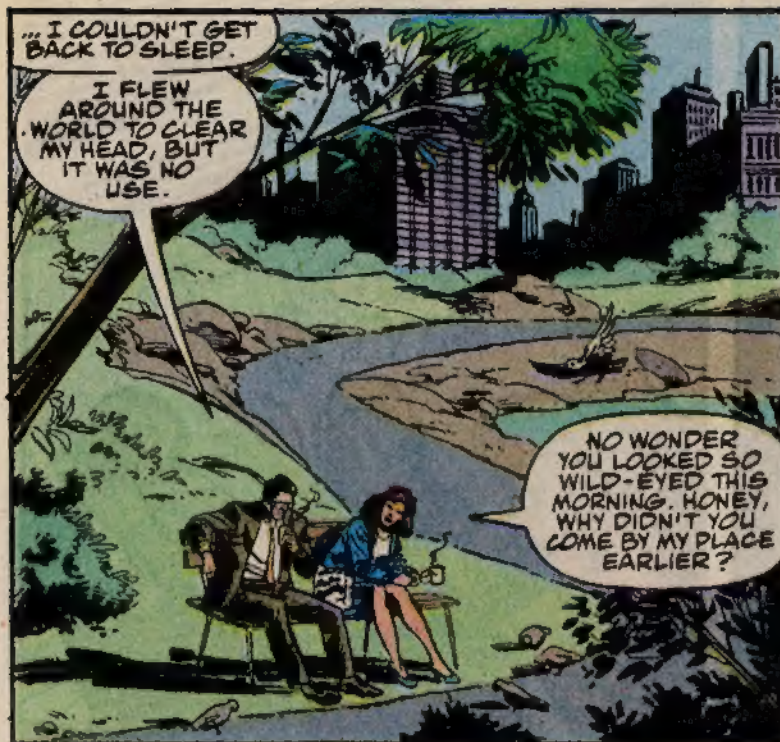
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... I COULDN'T GET BACK TO SLEEP.

I FLEW AROUND THE WORLD TO CLEAR MY HEAD, BUT IT WAS NO USE.

NO WONDER YOU LOOKED SO WILD-EYED THIS MORNING. HONEY, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME BY MY PLACE EARLIER?



I DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE YOU. WHY SHOULD YOU SUFFER A SLEEPLESS NIGHT JUST BECAUSE I HAD A BAD DREAM?

CLARK, WE ARE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED. IT'S TIME WE STARTED SHARING THE GOOD AND THE BAD.



I DON'T MIND LOSING A LITTLE SLEEP FOR YOU. ANYWAY...

... YOU SHOULDN'T LET THAT DREAM BOTHER YOU ANY FURTHER. LUTHOR'S DEAD NOW. HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO SPOIL OUR HAPPINESS.

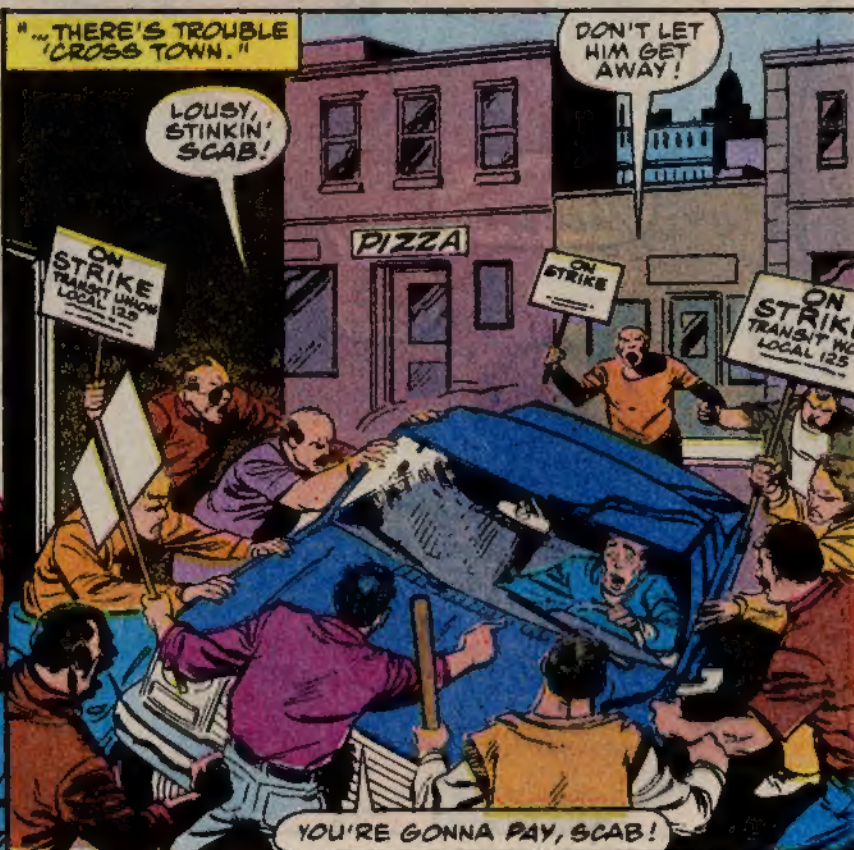
YOU'RE RIGHT, LOIS.

DREAMS ARE FUNNY, THOUGH... SOMETHING IN MY SUBCONSCIOUS MUST HAVE TRIGGERED THE MEMORY OF THE FIRST TIME LUTHOR THREATENED ME...



... IT WAS SO VIVID. I--!

CLARK? WHAT'S WRONG?



"THERE'S TROUBLE 'CROSS TOWN."

LOUSY, STINKIN' SCAB!

DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

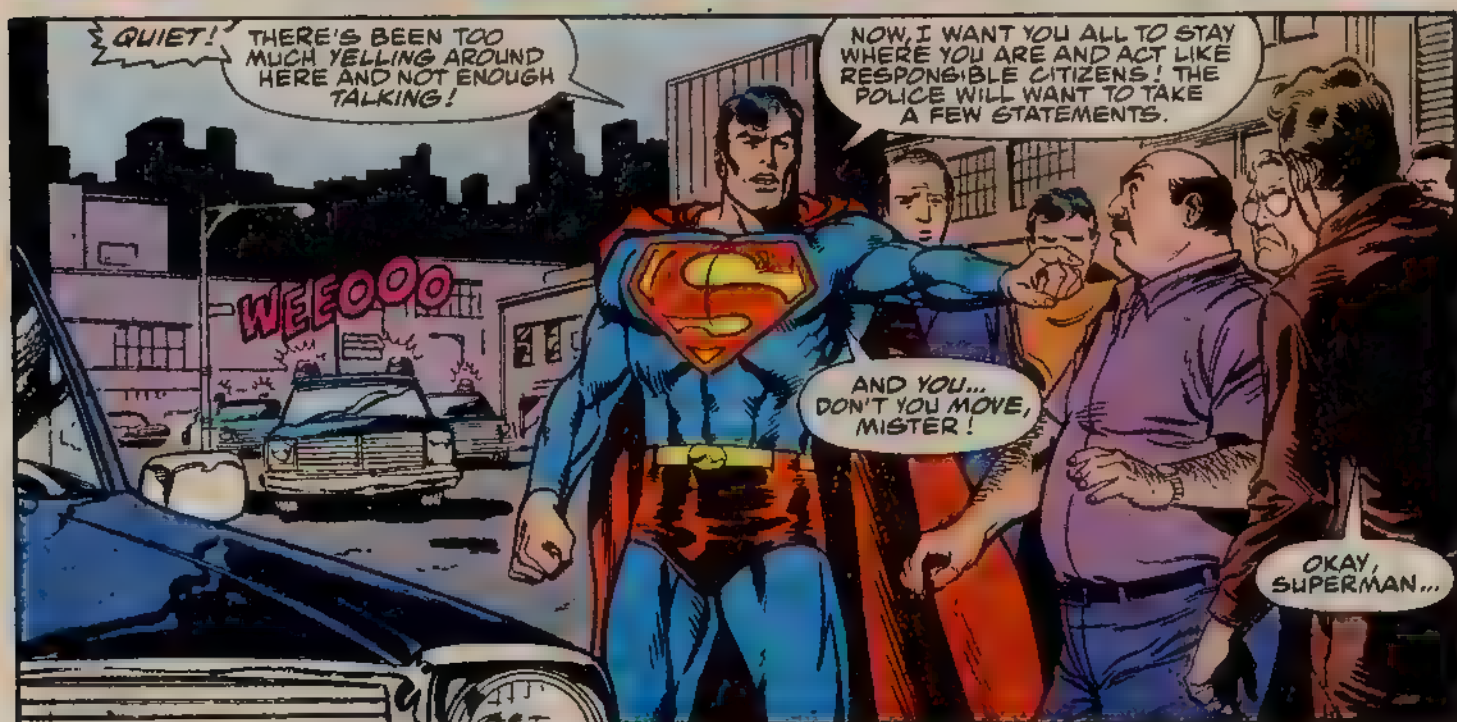
ON STRIKE
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LOCAL 125

PIZZA

ON STRIKE

ON STRIKE
TRANSIT UNION
LOCAL 125

YOU'RE GONNA PAY, SCAB!





"...WE'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY."

"...YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT..."

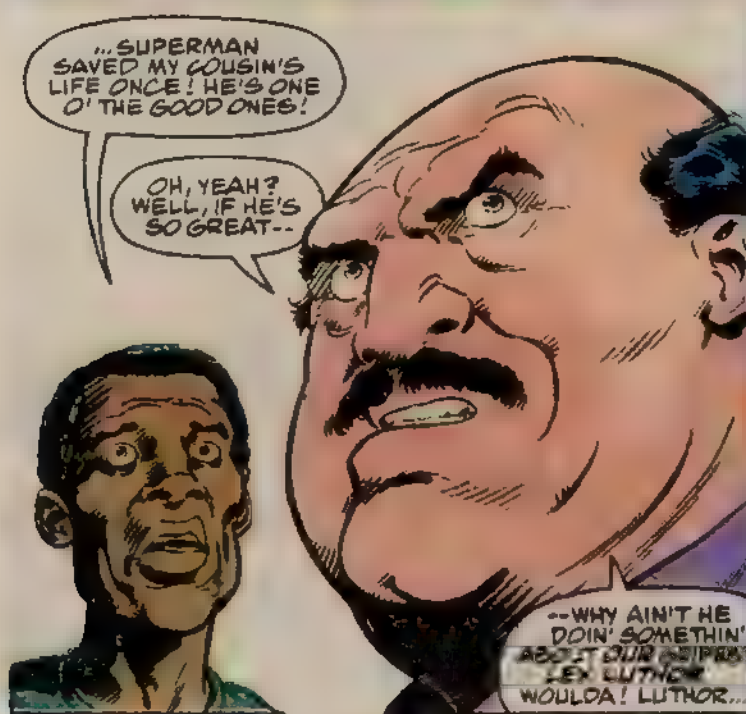
UH-HUH, AND THEN--?

THEY SURROUNDED ME! I WANTED TO BACK UP AND GET OUTTA THERE, BUT THEY WOULDN'T LET ME!



YEAH, THAT'S IT... YOU'VE DONE YER DIRTY WORK, NOW FLY AWAY! NO-GOOD, SCAB-LOVIN' FINK!

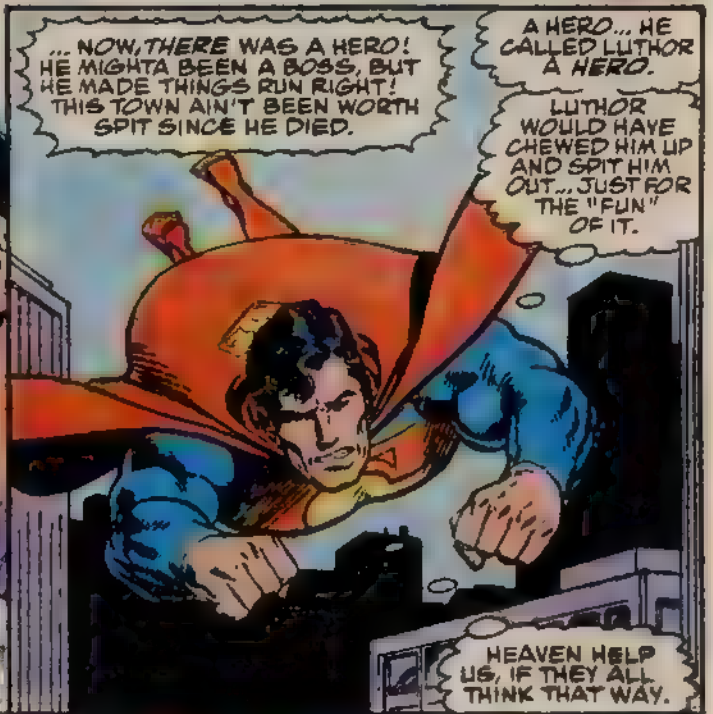
HEY, YOU'RE OUTTA LINE, MAN...



"...SUPERMAN SAVED MY COUSIN'S LIFE ONCE! HE'S ONE O' THE GOOD ONES!"

OH, YEAH? WELL, IF HE'S SO GREAT--

--WHY AIN'T HE DOIN' SOMETHIN' ABOUT OUR INSPIRED LEX LUTHOR WOULD'A! LUTHOR...

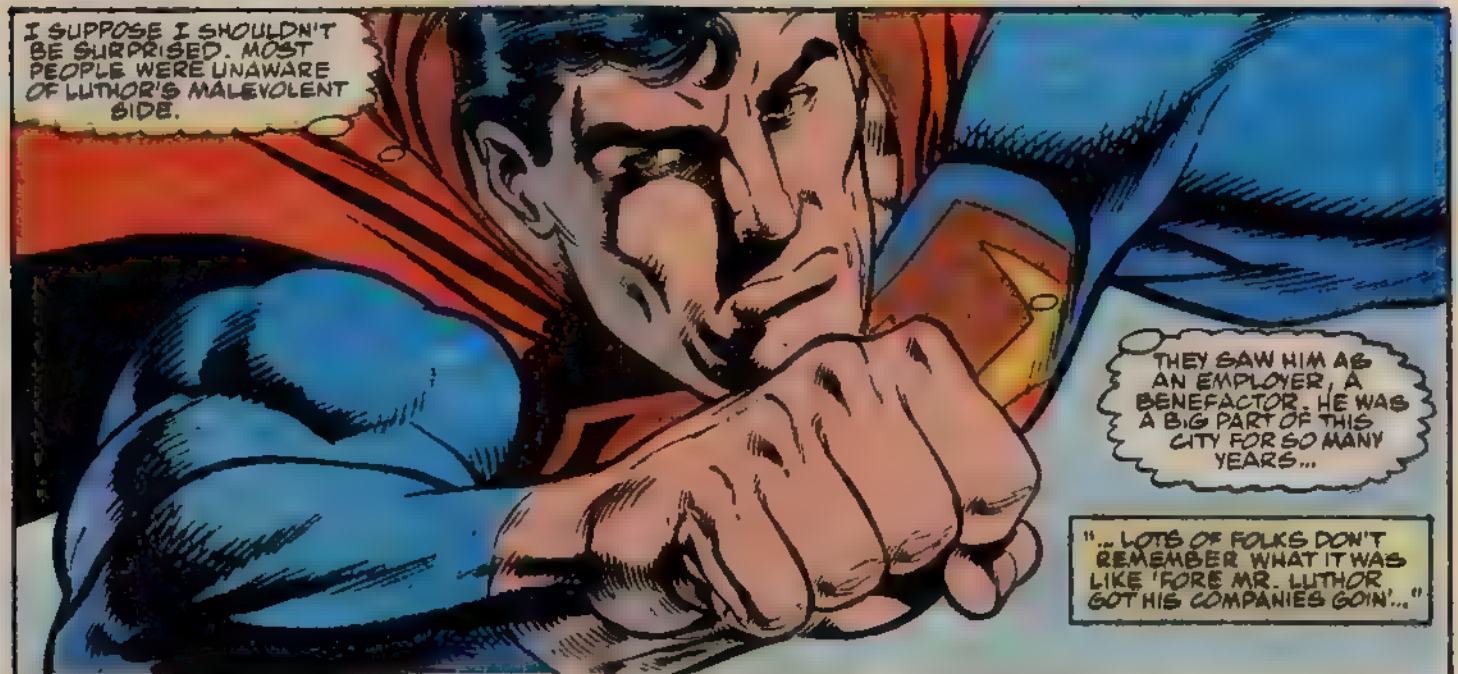


"...NOW, THERE WAS A HERO! HE MIGHTA BEEN A BOSS, BUT HE MADE THINGS RUN RIGHT! THIS TOWN AIN'T BEEN WORTH SPIT SINCE HE DIED."

A HERO... HE CALLED LUTHOR A HERO.

LUTHOR WOULD HAVE CHEWED HIM UP AND SPIT HIM OUT... JUST FOR THE "FUN" OF IT.

HEAVEN HELP US, IF THEY ALL THINK THAT WAY.



I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED. MOST PEOPLE WERE UNAWARE OF LUTHOR'S MALEVOLENT SIDE.

THEY SAW HIM AS AN EMPLOYER, A BENEFACTOR. HE WAS A BIG PART OF THIS CITY FOR SO MANY YEARS...

"...LOTS OF FOLKS DON'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE 'FORE MR. LUTHOR GOT HIS COMPANIES GOIN'..."

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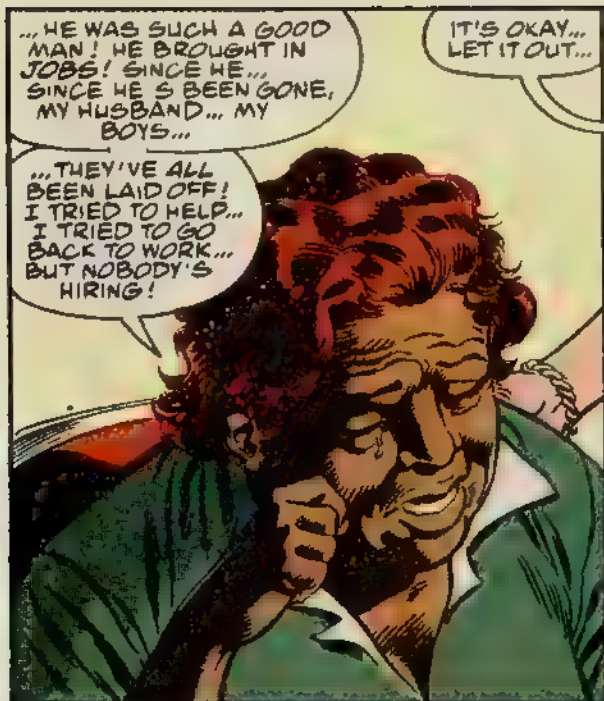
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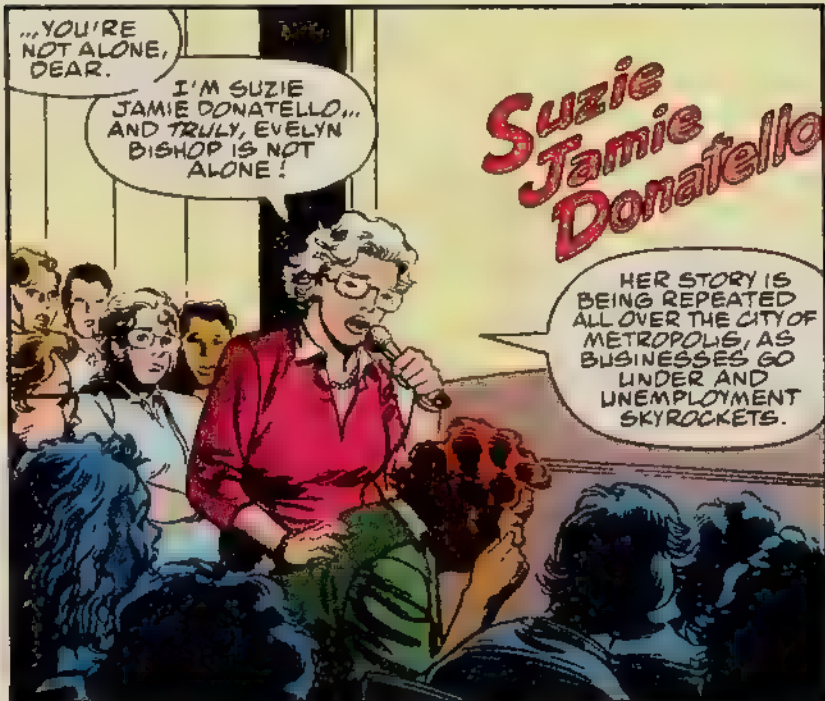
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...HE WAS SUCH A GOOD MAN! HE BROUGHT IN JOBS! SINCE HE... SINCE HE'S BEEN GONE, MY HUSBAND... MY BOYS...

...THEY'VE ALL BEEN LAID OFF! I TRIED TO HELP... I TRIED TO GO BACK TO WORK... BUT NOBODY'S HIRING!

IT'S OKAY... LET IT OUT...

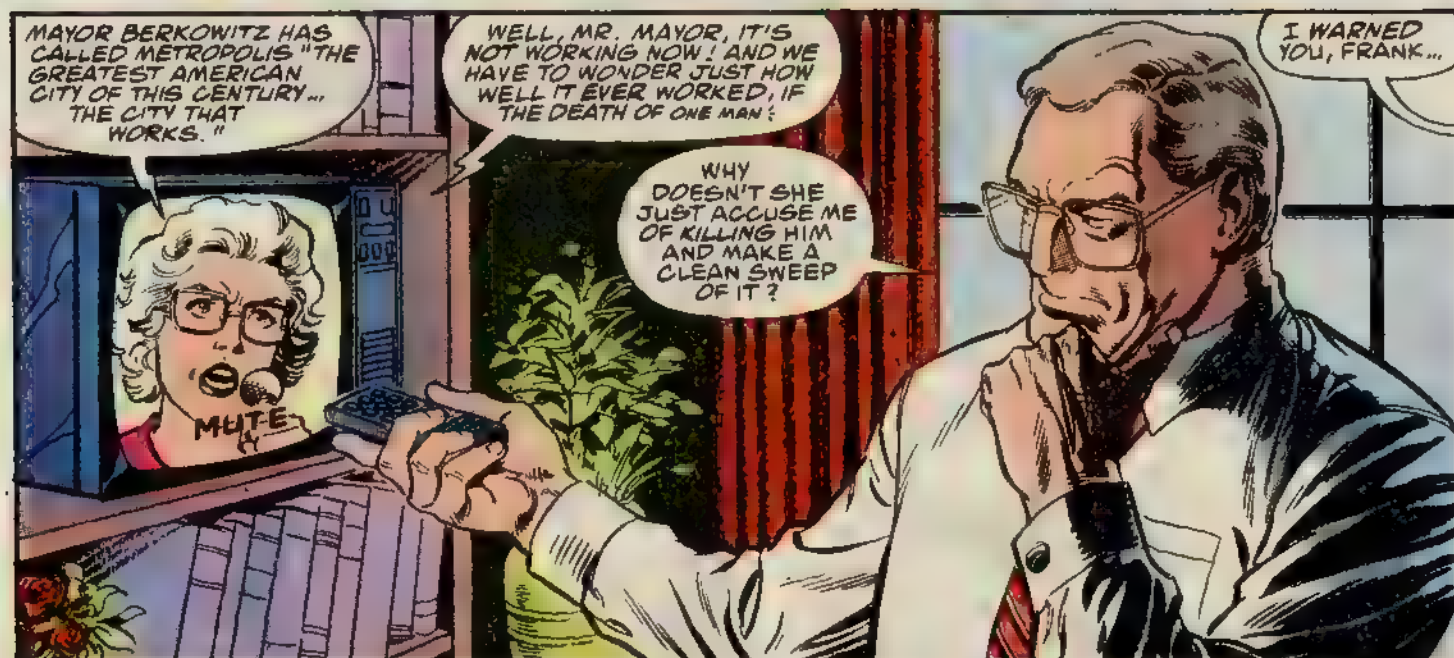


...YOU'RE NOT ALONE, DEAR.

I'M SUZIE JAMIE DONATELLO... AND TRULY, EVELYN BISHOP IS NOT ALONE!

Suzie Jamie Donatello

HER STORY IS BEING REPEATED ALL OVER THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, AS BUSINESSES GO UNDER AND UNEMPLOYMENT SKYROCKETS.

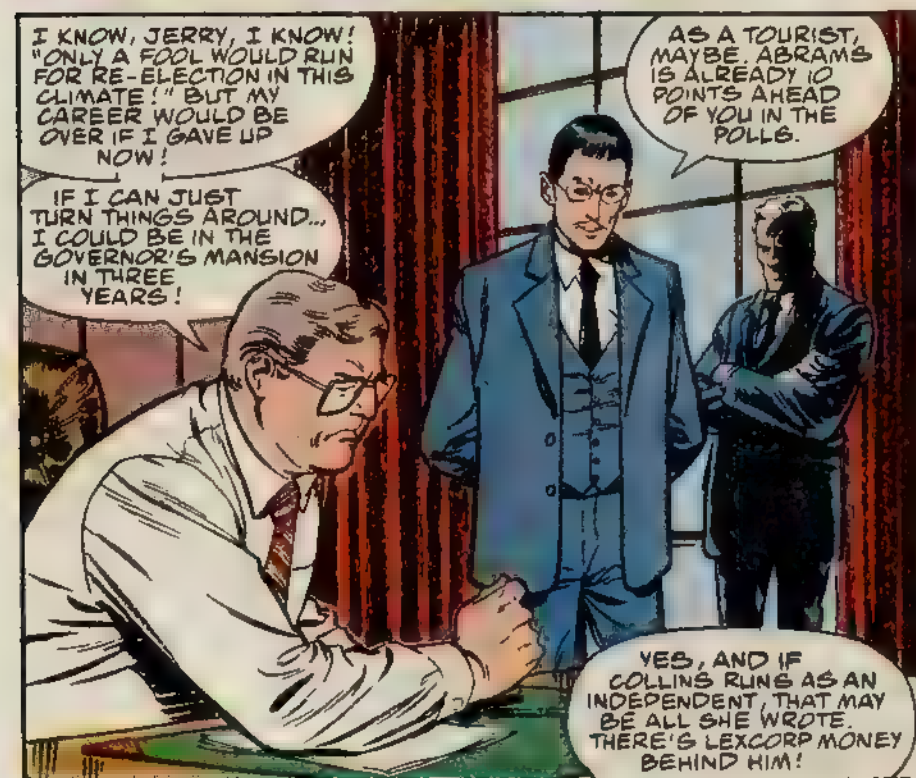


MAYOR BERKOWITZ HAS CALLED METROPOLIS "THE GREATEST AMERICAN CITY OF THIS CENTURY... THE CITY THAT WORKS."

WELL, MR. MAYOR, IT'S NOT WORKING NOW! AND WE HAVE TO WONDER JUST HOW WELL IT EVER WORKED, IF THE DEATH OF ONE MAN:

WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST ACCUSE ME OF KILLING HIM AND MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP OF IT?

I WARNED YOU, FRANK...

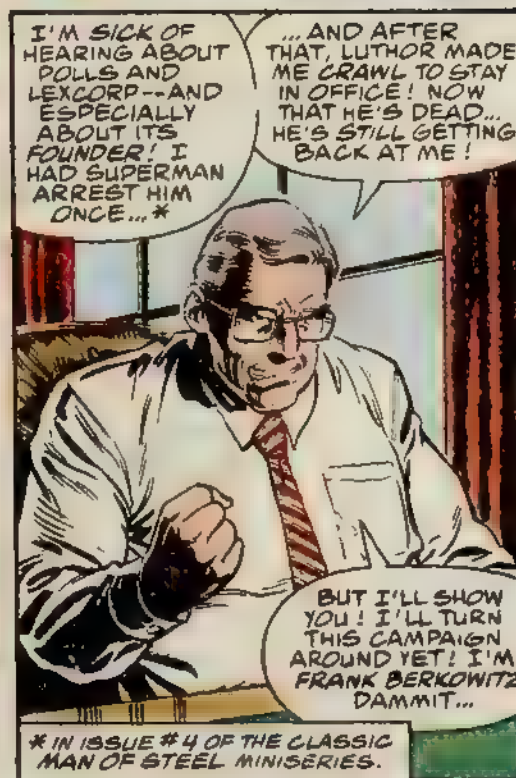


I KNOW, JERRY, I KNOW! "ONLY A FOOL WOULD RUN FOR RE-ELECTION IN THIS CLIMATE!" BUT MY CAREER WOULD BE OVER IF I GAVE UP NOW!

IF I CAN JUST TURN THINGS AROUND... I COULD BE IN THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION IN THREE YEARS!

AS A TOURIST, MAYBE. ABRAMS IS ALREADY 10 POINTS AHEAD OF YOU IN THE POLLS.

YES, AND IF COLLINS RUNS AS AN INDEPENDENT, THAT MAY BE ALL SHE WROTE. THERE'S LEXCORP MONEY BEHIND HIM!

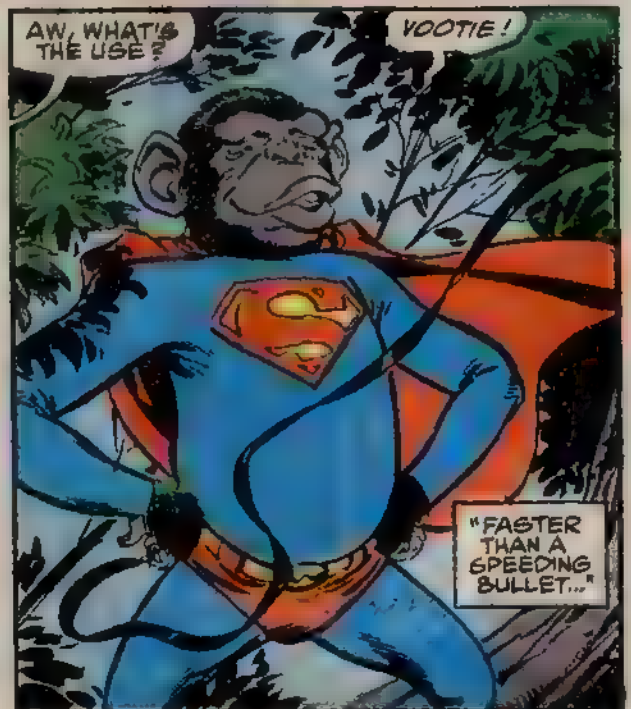
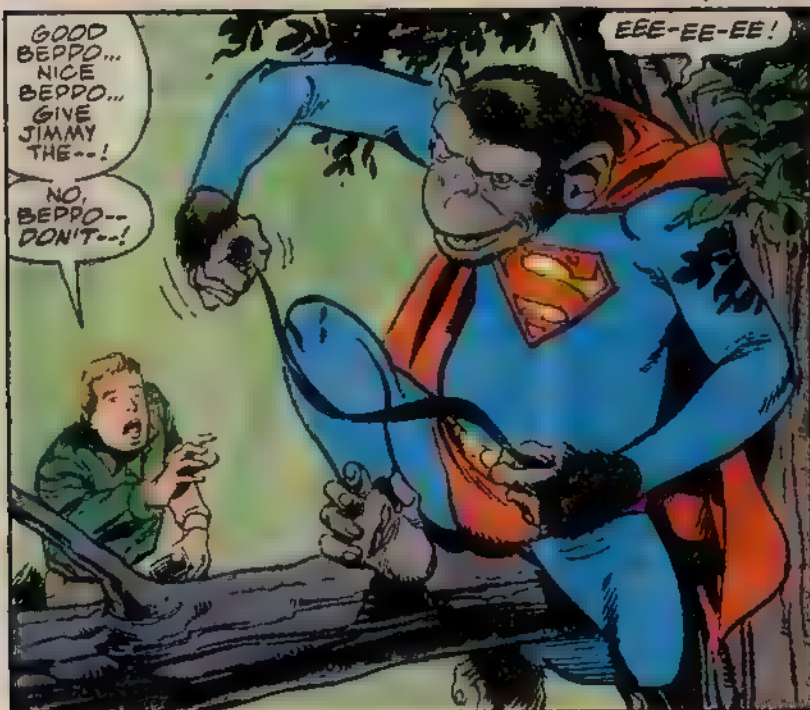
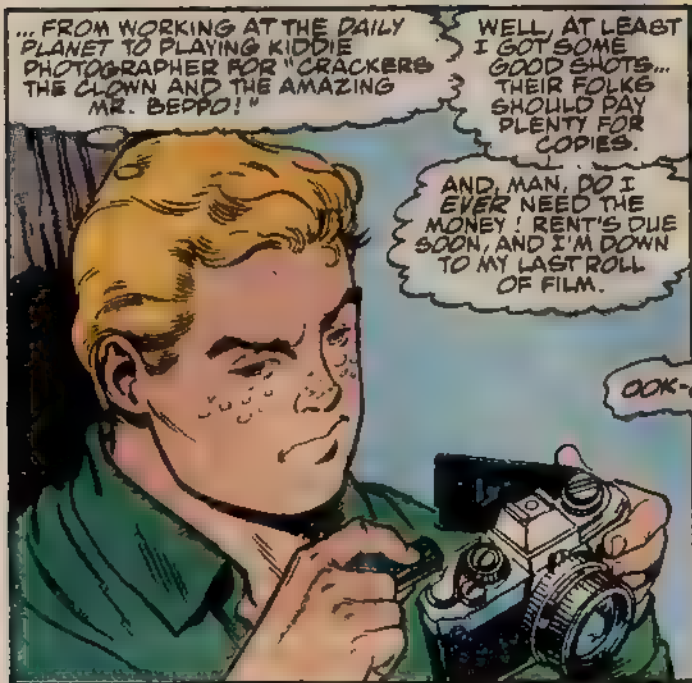
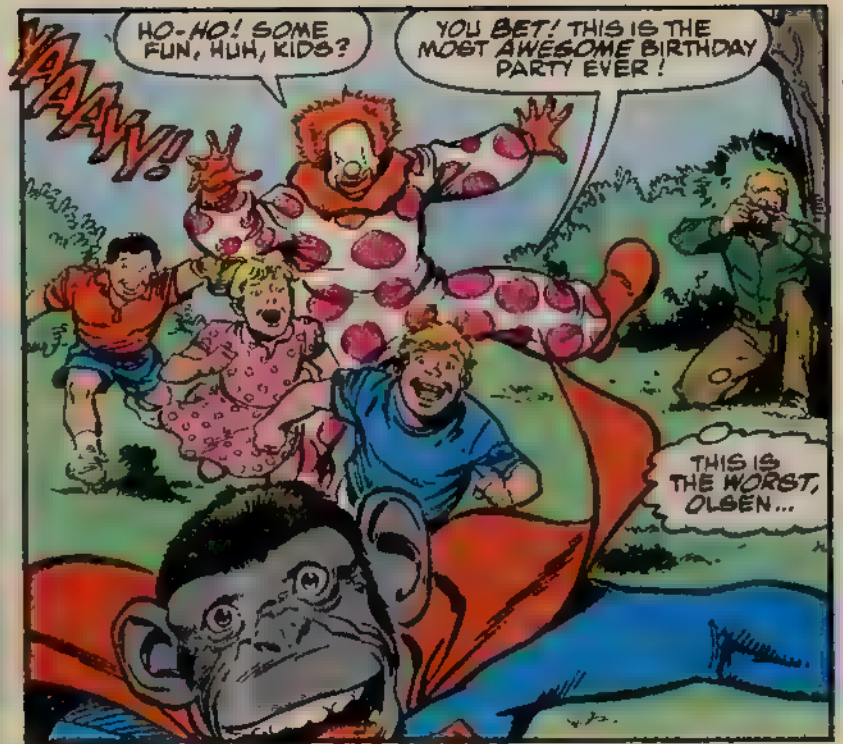


I'M SICK OF HEARING ABOUT POLLS AND LEXCORP--AND ESPECIALLY ABOUT ITS FOUNDER! I HAD SUPERMAN ARREST HIM ONCE...*

...AND AFTER THAT, LUTHOR MADE ME CRAWL TO STAY IN OFFICE! NOW THAT HE'S DEAD... HE'S STILL GETTING BACK AT ME!

BUT I'LL SHOW YOU! I'LL TURN THIS CAMPAIGN AROUND YET! I'M FRANK BERKOWITZ, DAMMIT...

* IN ISSUE #4 OF THE CLASSIC MAN OF STEEL MINISERIES.



"... MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE? IS THAT THE FATE OF LEX LUTHOR?"

"WAS THE BILLIONAIRE TYCOON SPARED A GORY DEATH, ONLY TO BE REVIVED ON A DISTANT PLANET... BECOMING A SUPER-MAN TO ALIEN BENEFACTORS?"



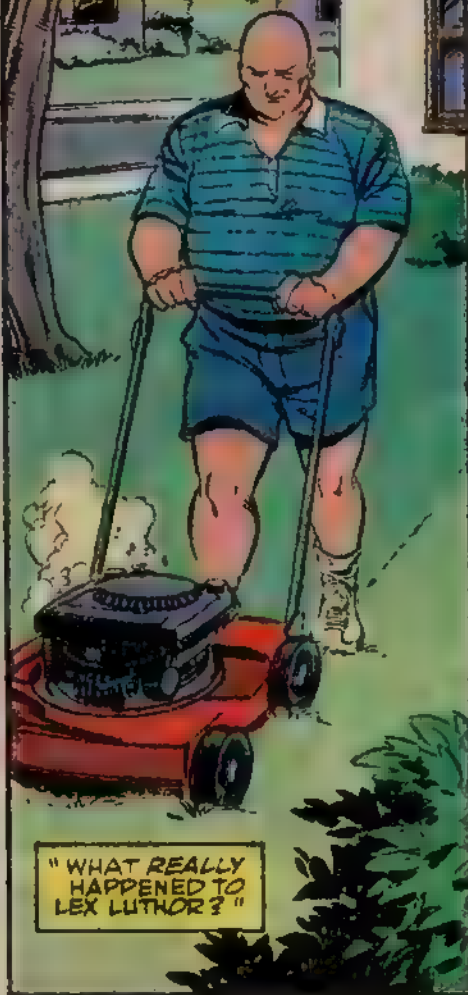
"WAS HE RESCUED FROM HIS DOOMED AIRCRAFT BY THE CITIZENS OF AN ADVANCED INCAN CITY, HIDDEN DEEP IN THE ANDES--"

"-- ONLY TO BECOME THEIR SLAVE?"



"OR DID LEX LUTHOR EMPLOY A DOUBLE TO FAKE HIS DEATH?"

"IS HE, EVEN NOW, LIVING UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME, LEADING A SIMPLE LIFE IN SUBURBIA?"



"WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO LEX LUTHOR?"

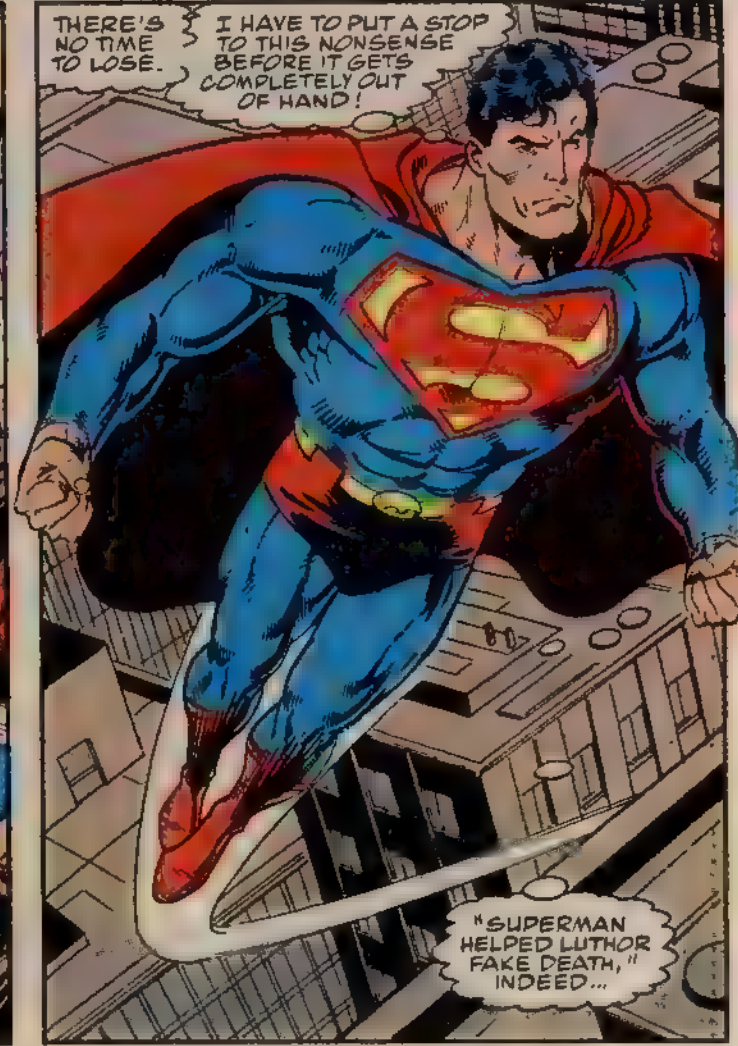
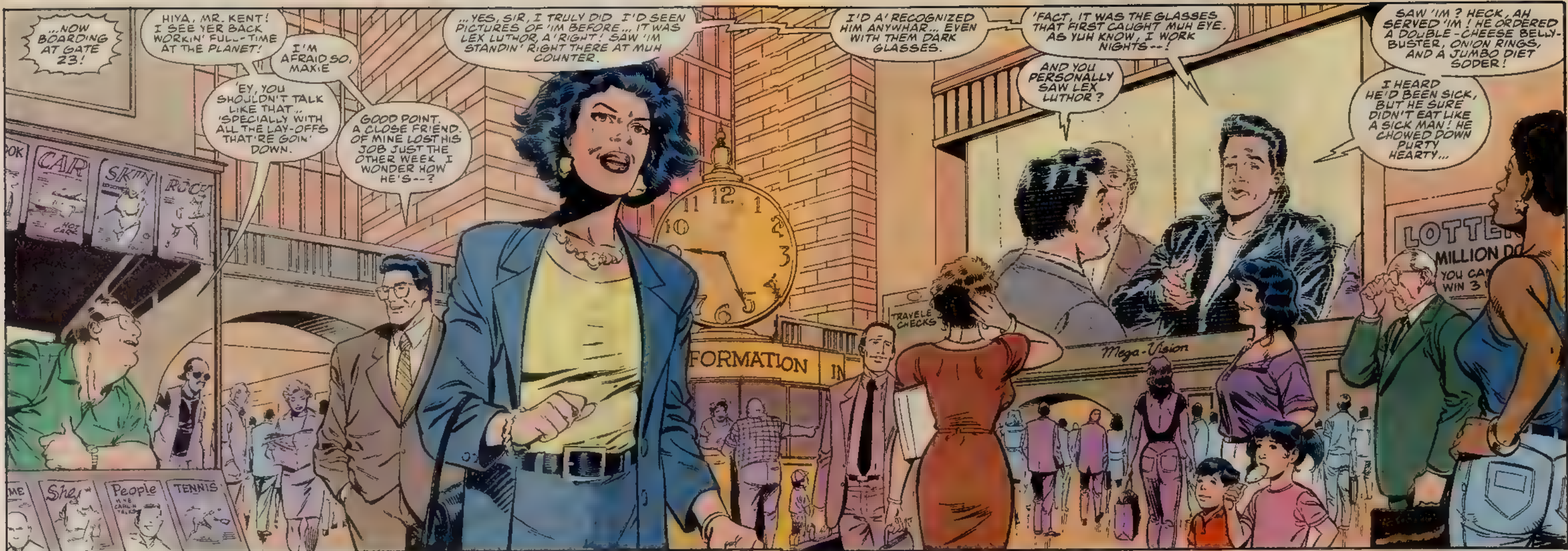
THAT'S THE QUESTION TODAY ON... RENALDO!

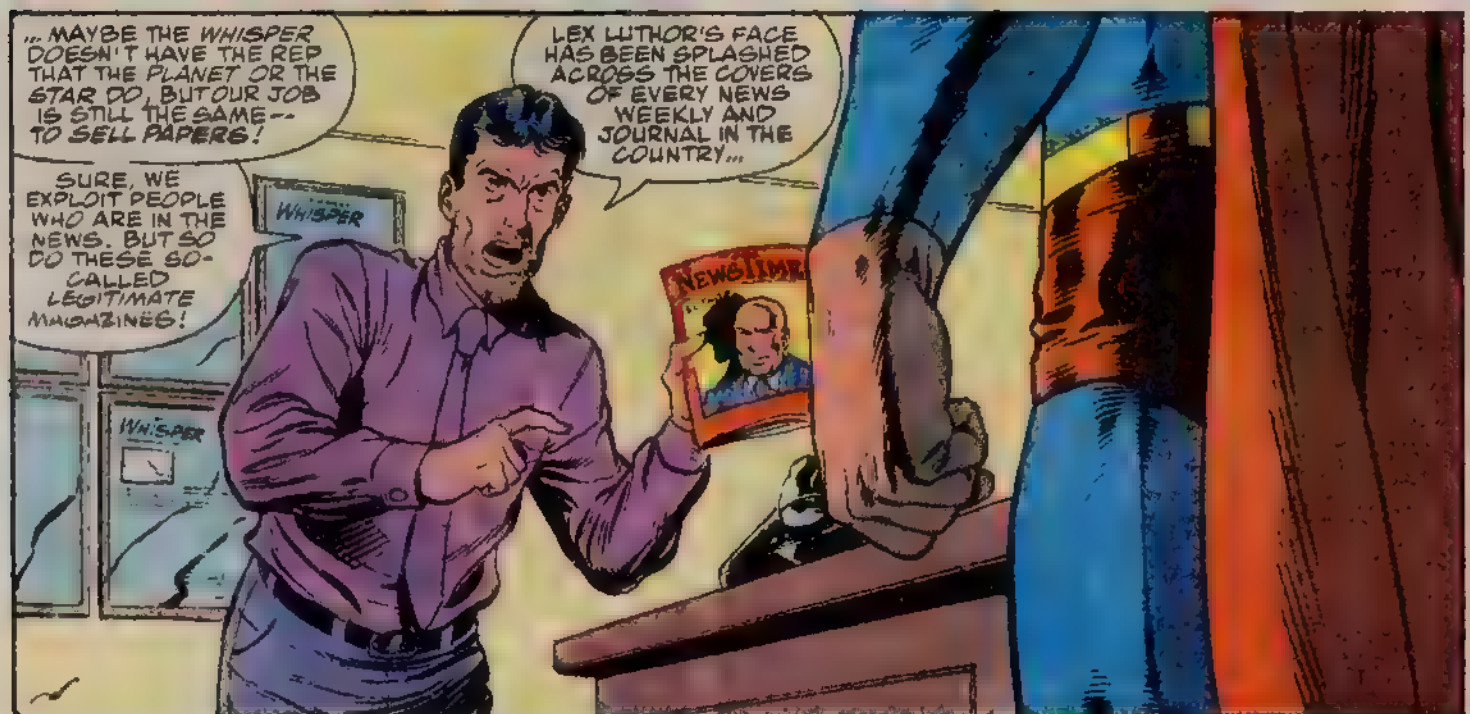
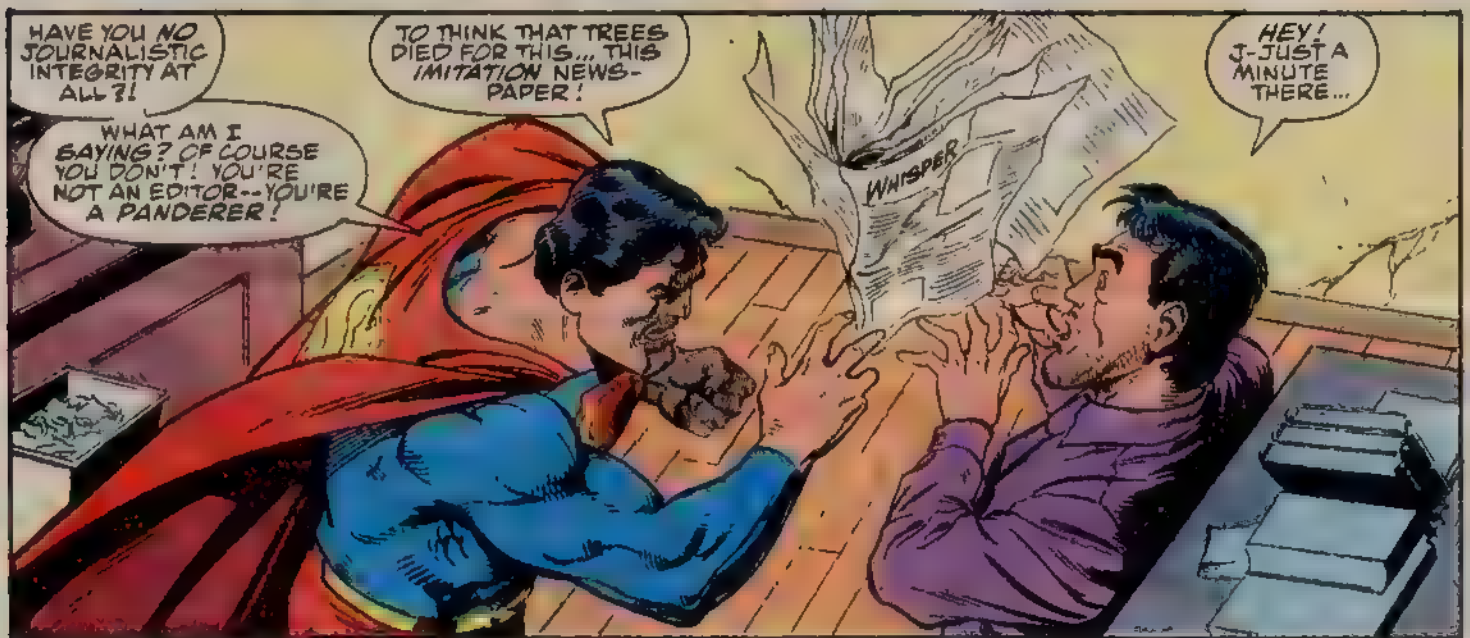
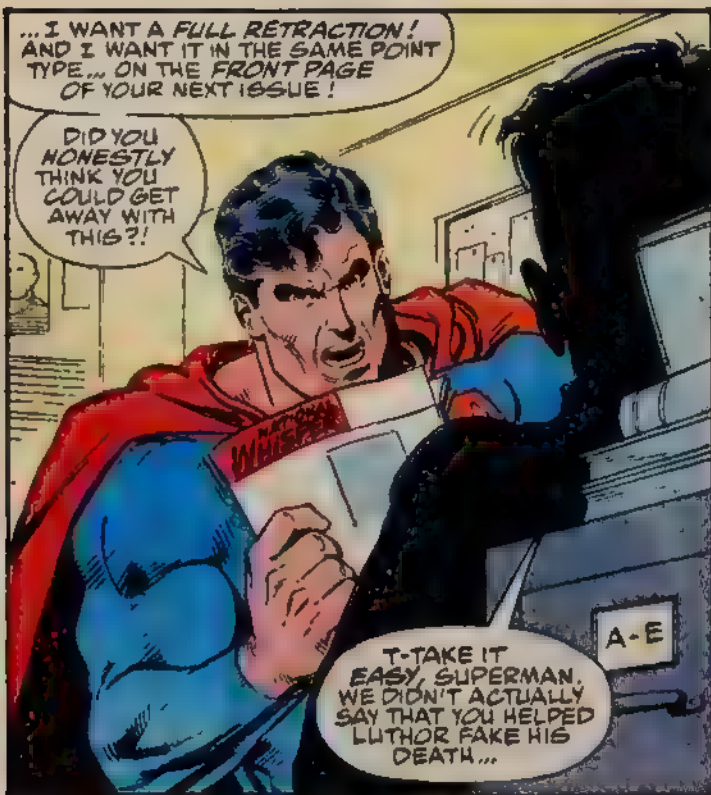
AND, I MUST ADMIT, IT'S THE LAST CASE-- OF LUTHOR IN SUBURBIA-- THAT INTRIGUES ME THE MOST. THAT'S THE THEORY OF MR. AARON PRESTON OF MUNCIE, INDIANA.

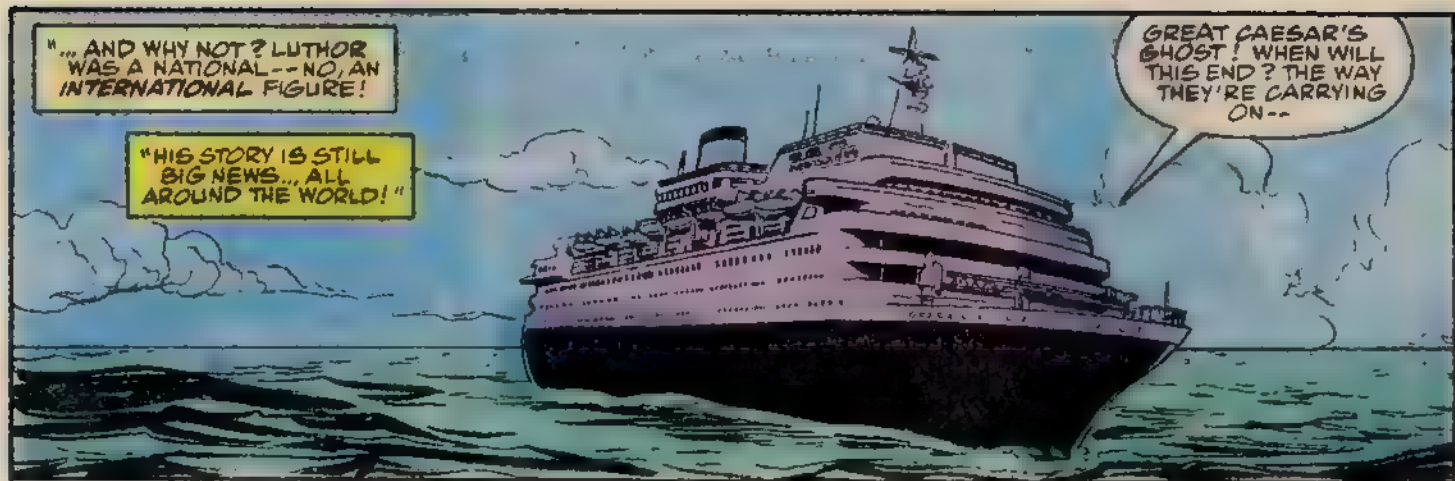
MR. PRESTON, I BELIEVE YOU'RE A BELLY BURGER NIGHT MANAGER--?

THAT'S RIGHT, RENALDO! BUT IT'S NO THEORY... I SAW MISTAH LUTHOR WITH MUH OWN EYES...









"...AND WHY NOT? LUTHOR WAS A NATIONAL--NO, AN INTERNATIONAL FIGURE!"

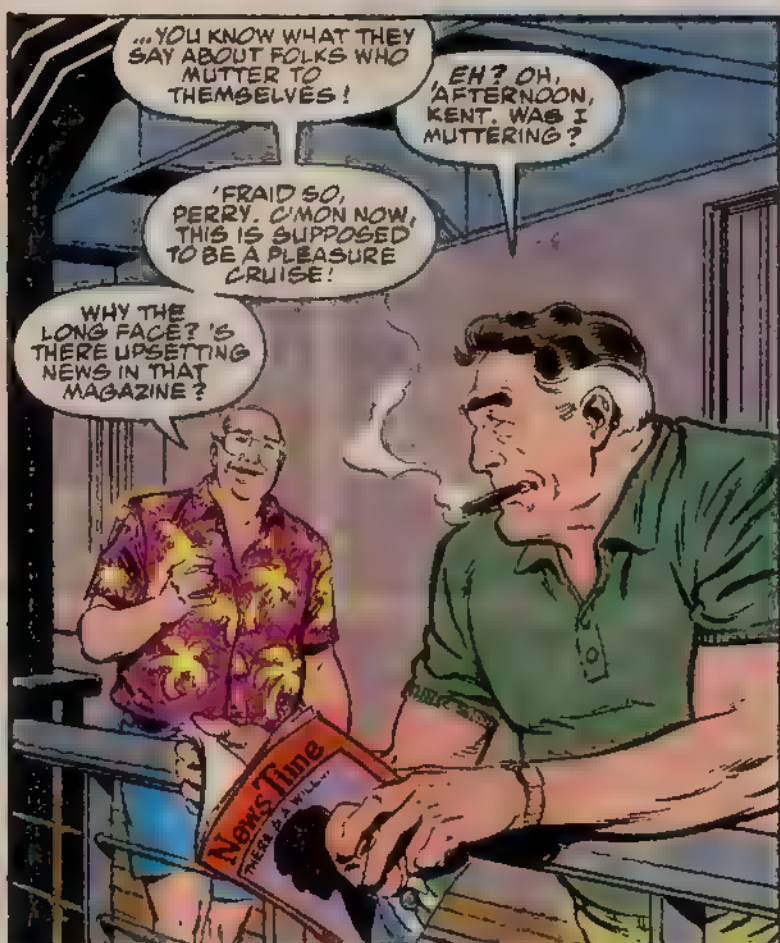
"HIS STORY IS STILL BIG NEWS... ALL AROUND THE WORLD!"

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! WHEN WILL THIS END? THE WAY THEY'RE CARRYING ON--



--YOU'D THINK THE MAN HAD BEEN PRESIDENT!

BETTER BE CAREFUL, WHITE...

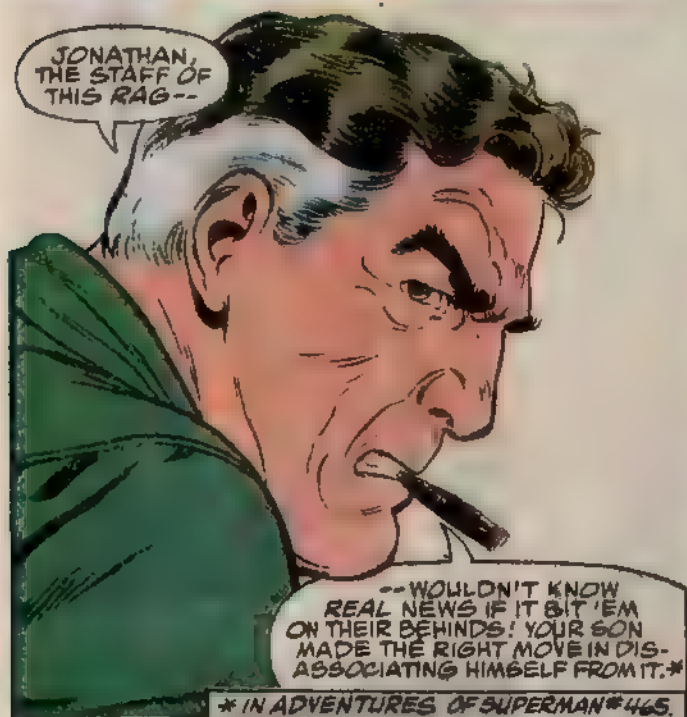


...YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT FOLKS WHO MUTTER TO THEMSELVES!

EH? OH, 'AFTERNOON, KENT. WAS I MUTTERING?

'FRAID SO, PERRY. C'MON NOW, THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PLEASURE CRUISE!

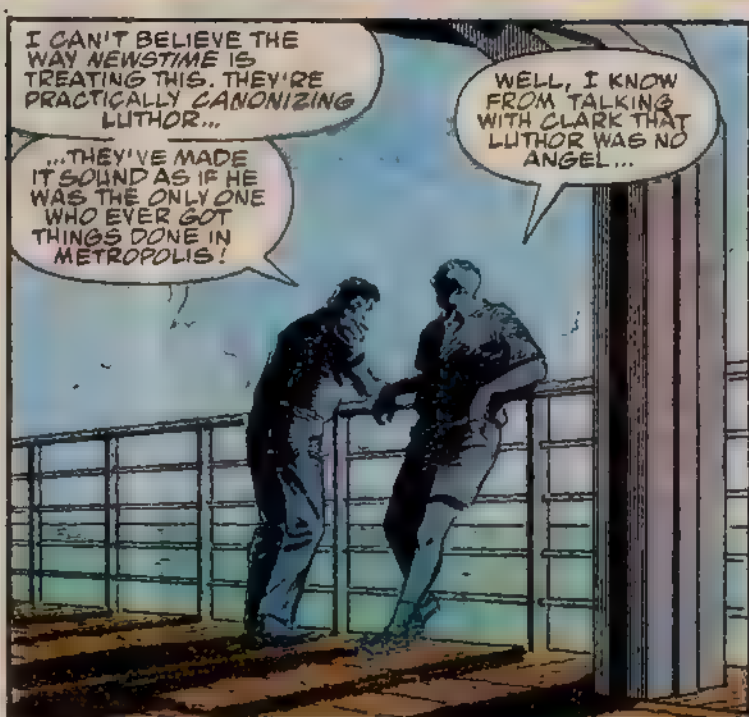
WHY THE LONG FACE? 'S THERE UPSETTING NEWS IN THAT MAGAZINE?



JONATHAN, THE STAFF OF THIS RAG--

--WOULDN'T KNOW REAL NEWS IF IT BIT 'EM ON THEIR BEHINDS! YOUR SON MADE THE RIGHT MOVE IN DIS-ASSOCIATING HIMSELF FROM IT.*

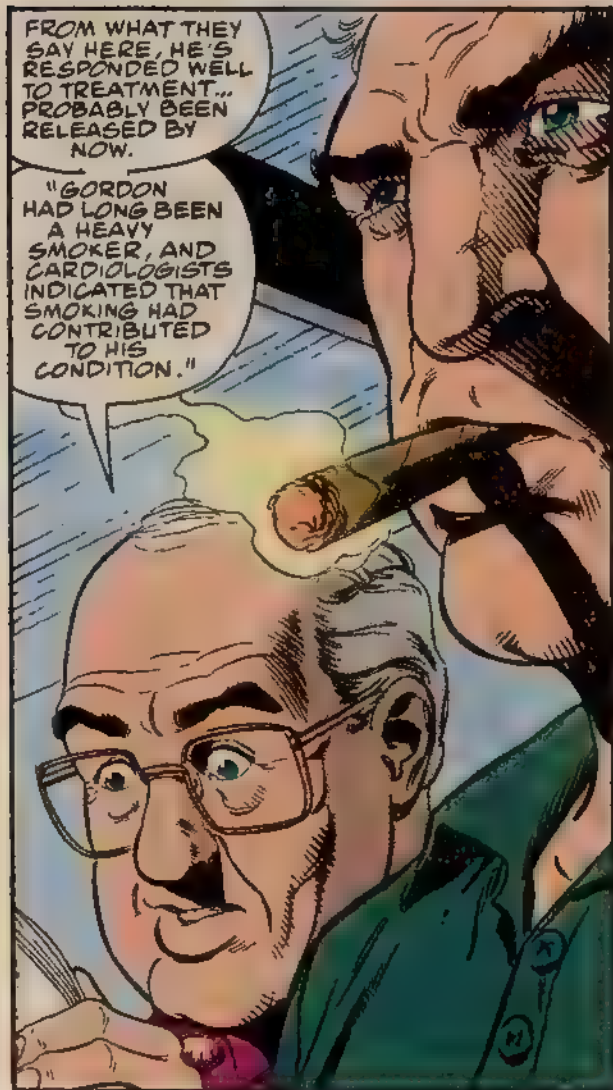
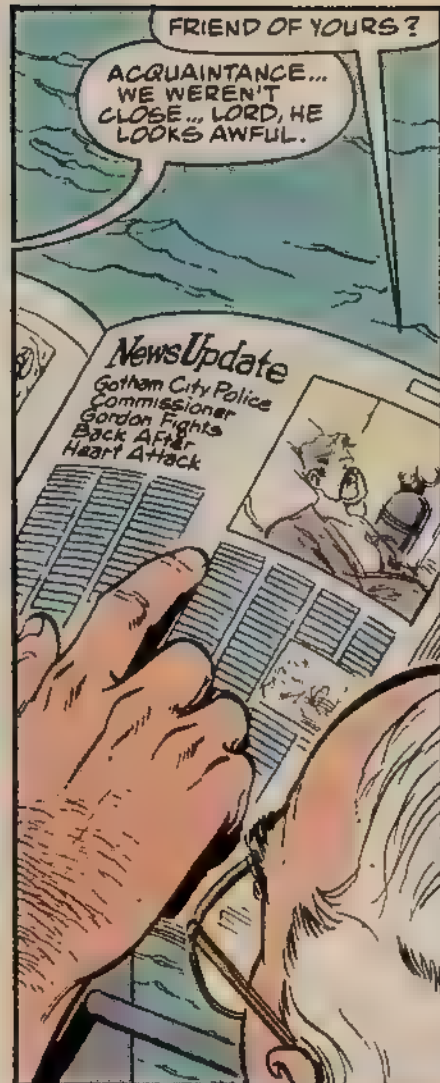
* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #465.



I CAN'T BELIEVE THE WAY NEWSTIME IS TREATING THIS. THEY'RE PRACTICALLY CANONIZING LUTHOR...

...THEY'VE MADE IT SOUND AS IF HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER GOT THINGS DONE IN METROPOLIS!

WELL, I KNOW FROM TALKING WITH CLARK THAT LUTHOR WAS NO ANGEL...



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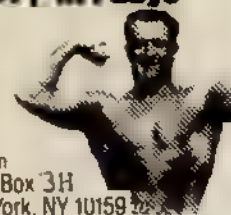
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THE WEAK AND THE
STRONG, THE
POWERLESS AND
THE MIGHTY.

EARLY LAST
MONTH, DEATH
CLAIMED BILLION-
AIRE INDUSTRIALIST
LEX LUTHOR... A MAN
WHOSE LIFE
AFFECTED MILLIONS
OF PEOPLE.

THE DEATH OF
SUCH A MAN
INEVITABLY HAS
LASTING REPER-
CUSSIONS.

IN RECENT
WEEKS, THE
MULTINATIONAL BUSI-
NESS EMPIRE LUTHOR
BUILT HAS BEEN
SHAKEN TO ITS
FOUNDATIONS...

...AND SOME
DISBELIEVING PEOPLE
HAVE BEGUN TO QUESTION
WHETHER HE ACTUALLY
DIED AT ALL.

HELLO, I'M
CATHERINE GRANT.
TONIGHT ON NEWSMAKERS,
WE'LL INVESTIGATE "THE
LONELY DEATH OF
LEX LUTHOR!"



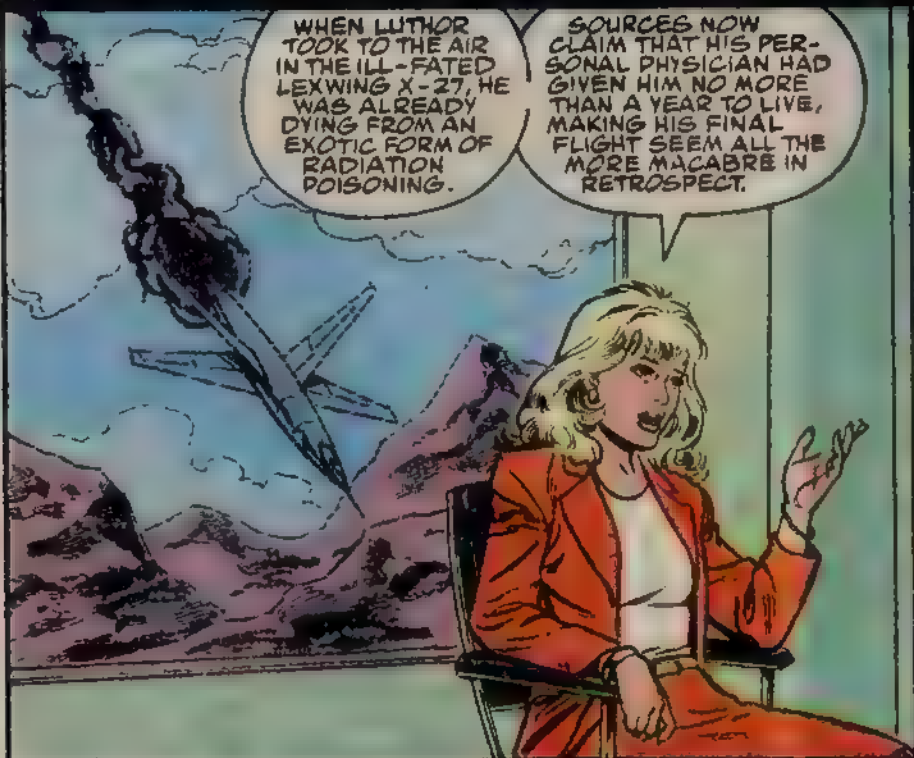
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WHEN LUTHOR
TOOK TO THE AIR
IN THE ILL-FATED
LEXWING X-27, HE
WAS ALREADY
DYING FROM AN
EXOTIC FORM OF
RADIATION
POISONING.

SOURCES NOW
CLAIM THAT HIS PER-
SONAL PHYSICIAN HAD
GIVEN HIM NO MORE
THAN A YEAR TO LIVE,
MAKING HIS FINAL
FLIGHT SEEM ALL THE
MORE MACABRE IN
RETROSPECT.

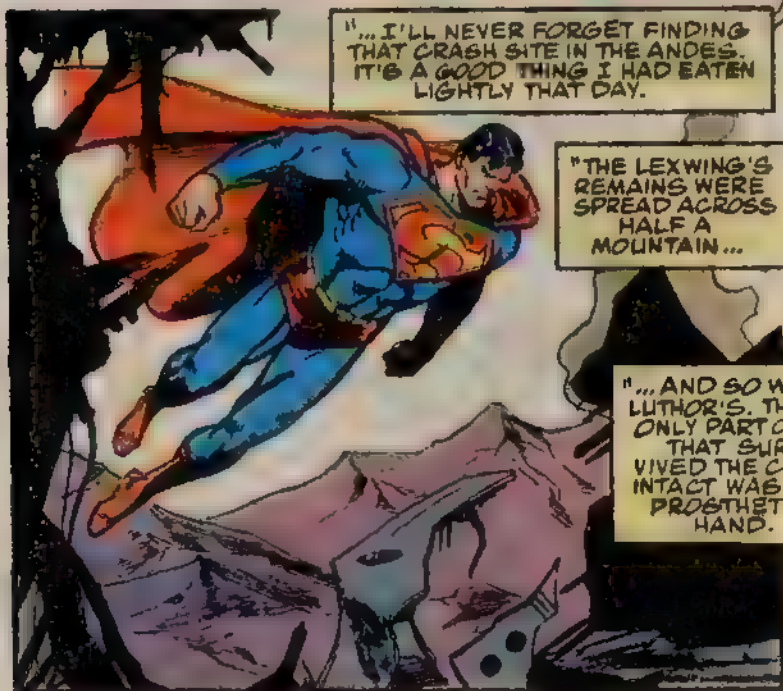
MACABRE
WAS THE
WORD FOR
IT, CAT...



"...I'LL NEVER FORGET FINDING
THAT CRASH SITE IN THE ANDES.
IT'S A GOOD THING I HAD EATEN
LIGHTLY THAT DAY.

"THE LEXWING'S
REMAINS WERE
SPREAD ACROSS
HALF A
MOUNTAIN...

"...AND SO WERE
LUTHOR'S. THE
ONLY PART OF HIM
THAT SUR-
VIVED THE CRASH
INTACT WAS HIS
PROSTHETIC
HAND.



"I WAS IMMEDIATELY SUSPICIOUS. THE BODY WAS JUST BARELY IDENTIFIABLE AS HUMAN..."

"...AND I WOULDN'T HAVE PUT IT PAST LUTHOR TO FAKE HIS DEATH... FOR ANY NUMBER OF REASONS."

"I KNEW THAT I HAD TO MAKE A POSITIVE I.D. OF THE REMAINS."

"FORTUNATELY, A COUPLE OF PERUVIAN AIR FORCE 'COPTERS SHOWED UP ABOUT THEN..."

IT IS DISTASTEFUL, BUT IT MUST BE DONE. ENTIENDE USTED, CAPITAN?

SI, ENTIENDO, SUPERMAN. IT WILL BE DONE.

"IT TOOK US OVER AN HOUR TO LOCATE ALL THE REMAINS AND COLLECT THEM IN THE BODY BAG."

"PERU HAD ALREADY ASKED FOR U.S. HELP IN INVESTIGATING THE CRASH, SO THEY WERE HAPPY TO ENTRUST ME WITH THE DECEASED."

"AS QUICKLY AS I COULD, I RETURNED TO METROPOLIS ... AND THE ARMY'S C.I.D.* FORENSICS OFFICE AT FORT BRIDWELL."

FORT BRIDWELL

* CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.

AH, SUPERMAN! WE WERE TOLD TO EXPECT YOU. I'M MAJOR BURTON ... THIS IS CAPTAIN LANNING.

MAJOR... CAPTAIN...
MORGUE

JUST PUT THE REMAINS ON THE FAR TABLE, SIR.

WHAT A MESS!

PATCH ME THROUGH TO THE M.P.D. SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT.

I WANT TO SPEAK WITH...

CAPTAIN SAWYER?

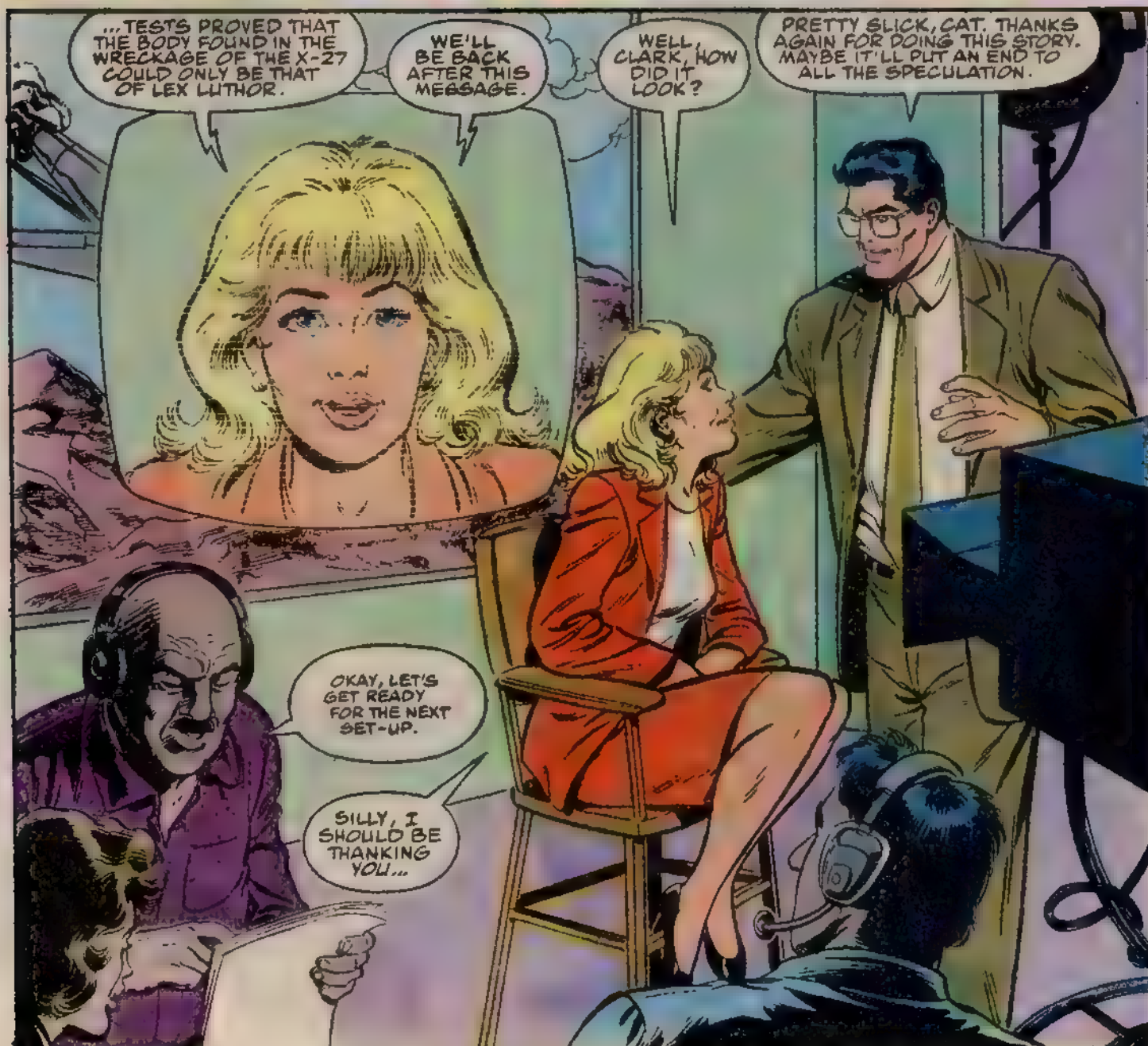
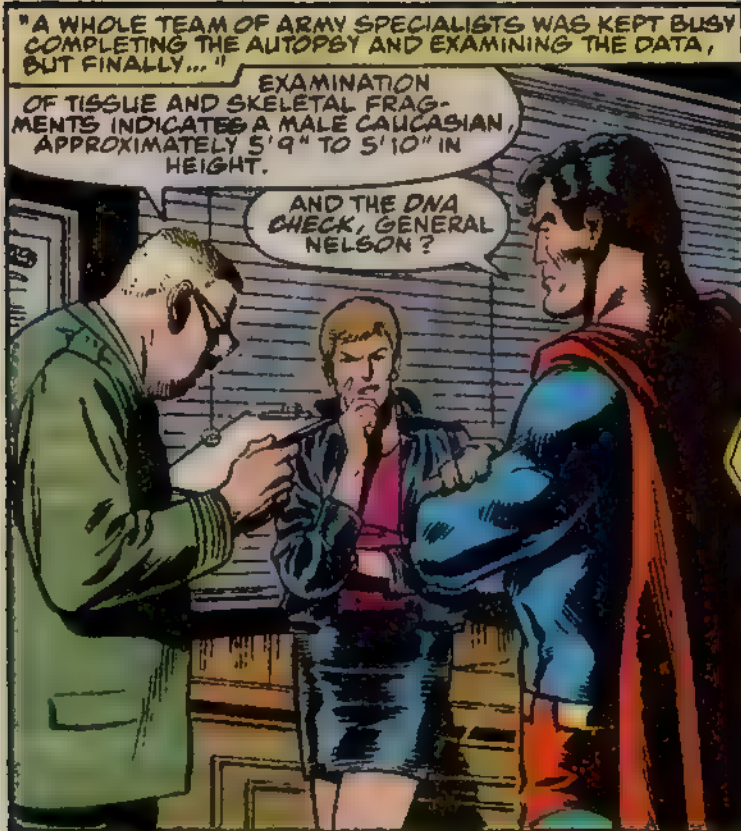
WH-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS INTRUSION? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

RECORDS, DOCTOR KELLEY...

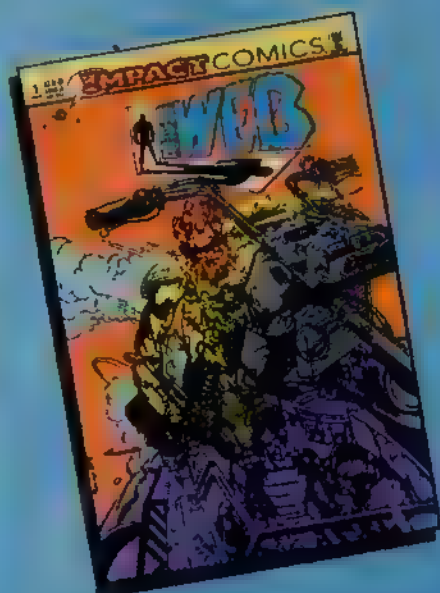
...SPECIFICALLY THE MEDICAL RECORDS YOU KEPT AS THE PERSONAL PHYSICIAN OF ONE LEX LUTHOR!

THIS COURT ORDER EMPOWERS ME TO SEIZE THEM FOR INSPECTION AND STUDY BY APPROVED FORENSICS EXPERTS.

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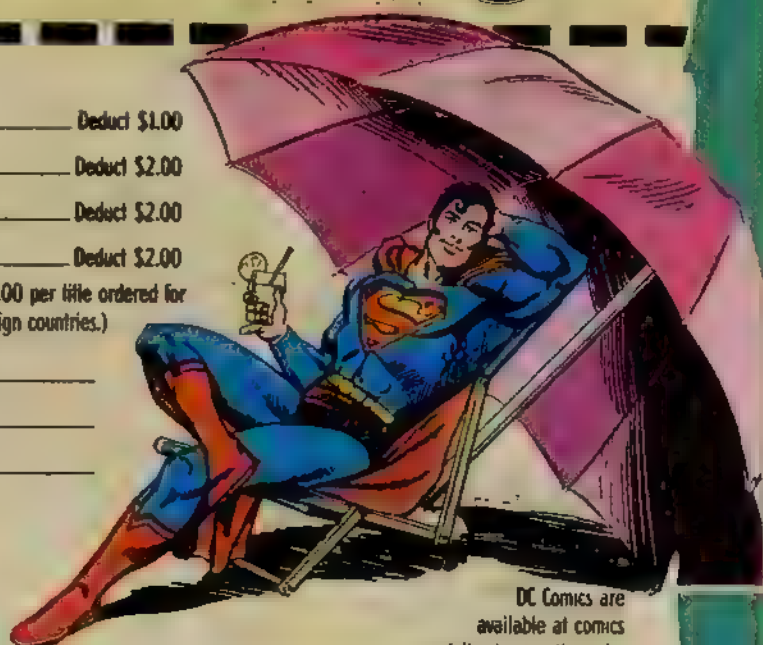
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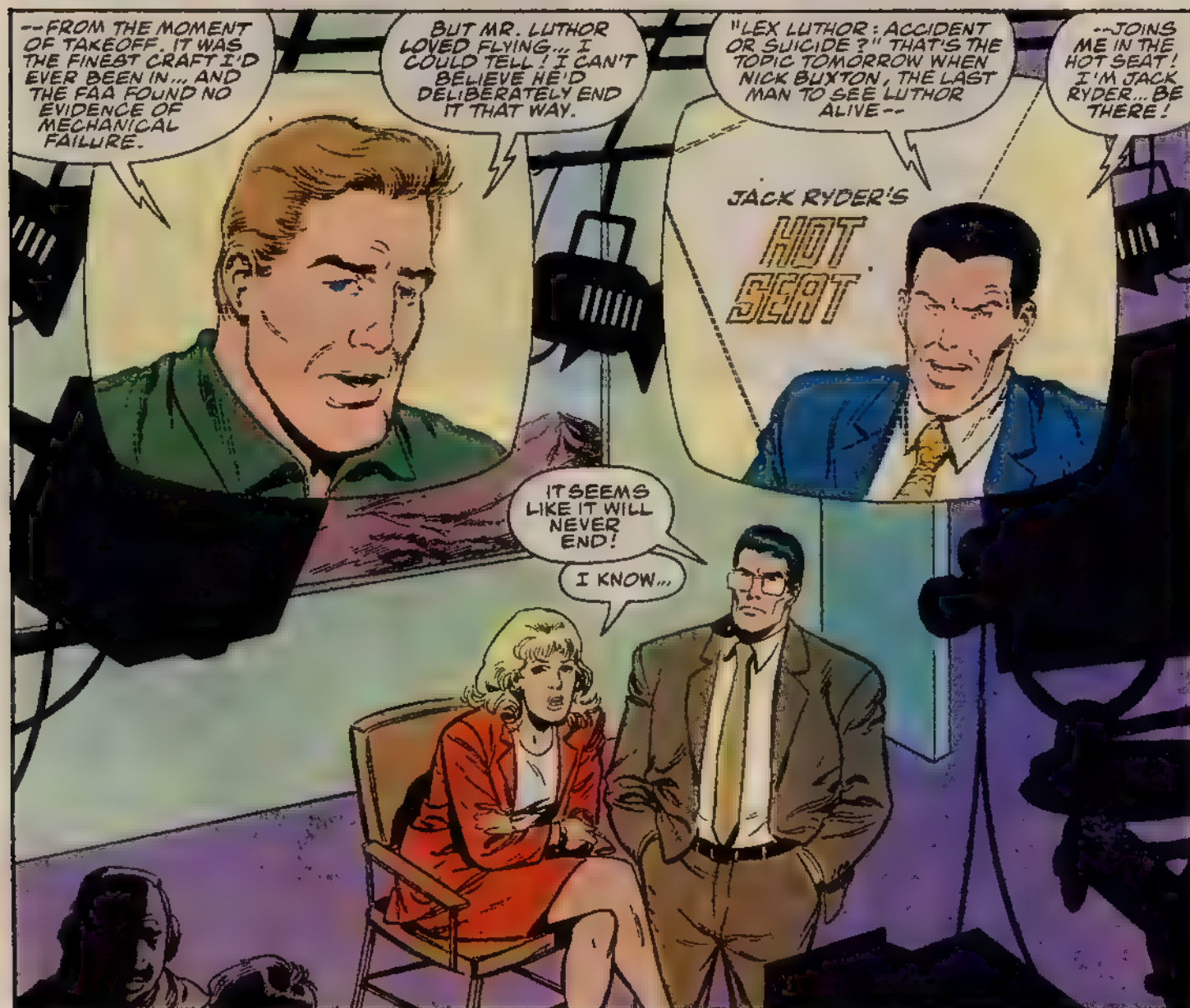
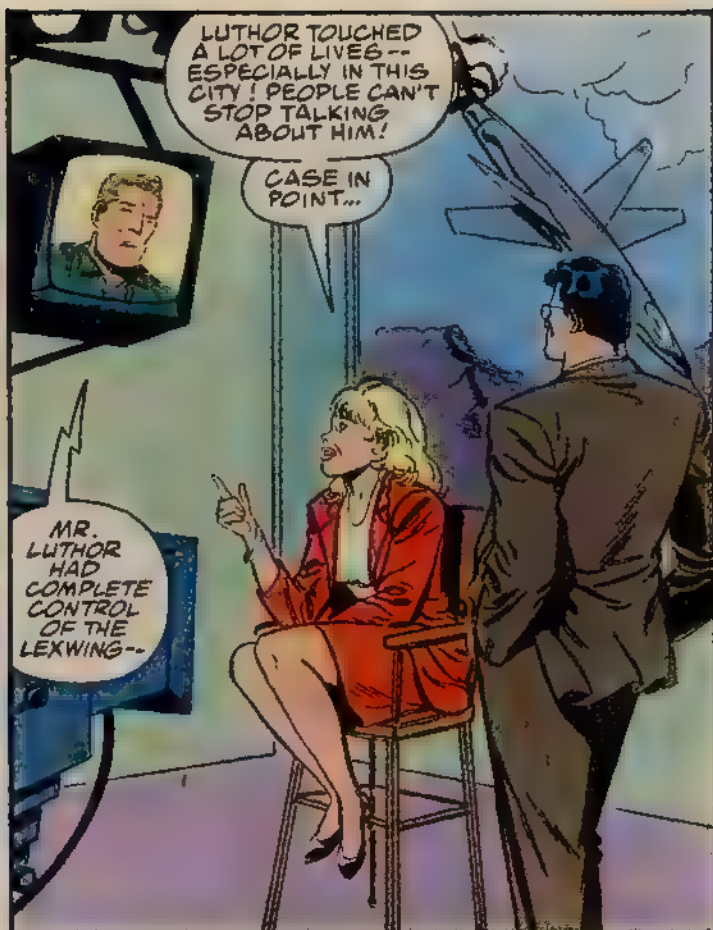
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"... IT'S ALMOST AS IF LUTHOR'S GHOST HAS A PRESS AGENT!"

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA...

YEAH, THE TAPING WENT WELL ENOUGH, BUT THAT RYDER GUY GAVE ME THE CREEPS. I STILL DON'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT THIS--!

RELAX, BUXTON. YOU TOLD THE STORY AS YOU KNEW IT--



-- THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING.

I HAVE TO GO... I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

BUSY LITTLE BEAVER, AREN'T YOU?



GRETCHEN--? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN... YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING THE PHONES FOR WEEKS! WHY DO YOU KEEP PLANTING ALL THOSE STORIES ABOUT LEX?



BECAUSE THAT'S THE WAY THE BOSS WANTED IT.

HE SAID, "HAPPERSEN, DON'T EVER LET THE PEOPLE FORGET LEX LUTHOR!"



HEY, DON'T BE SO GLUM, KELLEY.

COME ON, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR US TO GREET THE YOUNG HEIR TO THE LUTHOR NAME. DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR SON?

I... ALL RIGHT, SYDNEY... ALL RIGHT.

NEXT ISSUE: THE RETURN OF THE THORN!

REACTION

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Dear Roger, Bob, Bill, Glenn, Dan and Mike:

Regarding issue #664 of ACTION COMICS, the quality of the writing and art is simply outstanding. Superman in the late Jurassic period! Classic material, to say the least. I only wish you could have kept Supes in that time period for another issue or two. It would have made for a great survival story.

I consider myself a connoisseur of fine dinosaur art and consider Bob McLeod's renderings of that time period excellent. The scene on page 5, panel 3 with Superman overlooking a prehistoric battle in the moonlight was a touch not often seen in comics. Page 16 with Superman and the mastodon is a work of art of the highest order. I'd love to have that piece hanging above the fireplace.

The storyline in "Time and Time Again" fits Superman perfectly. Keep up the fine work. Oh yes, I'd like to vote that Superman keeps the darker version of his costume and the beard!

Barry DiGregorio
Niagara Falls, NY

Dear Mike:

Now that DC has officially announced the fourth Superman title, I expect to be the first to point out that the events in ACTION #664 secretly foreshadow a fifth Superman title. Yes, in a revival of the "Superman Family" of bygone years, I looked forward to "Superman's Pal, Dromiceiomimus." This will enable you to fill in those months that have a fifth shipping week in them. And if you think this is a silly idea, just remember we used to have Streaky, Krypto and Co. "Drom" could be the first member of a new Legion of Super-Pets—assuming he can find a few explosions to propel him into the future, that is.

Just why do explosions propel Superman through time rather than merely through the nearest building, mountain, or hidden civilization? After all, he's borne (no pun intended) the brunt of thousands of explosions before!

Malcolm Bourne
Lancashire, England

If you've read ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #478 you already know the answer to that question, Malcolm, but in case any of you out there haven't been keeping up, the only way the Linear Man could "reach" Superman was through a massive explosion opening a small rift in the time stream.

Superman's Pal Dromiceiomimus? We don't think Clark's landlord would be too happy about that!

Dear Dan:

Considering that planet Earth is mostly water, it's lucky that Superman always "lands" on land during his time jaunts. Twice he's popped up in close proximity to the Legion of Super-Heroes. Some coincidence. But the most surprising coincidence of all is Supes landing in prehistory twenty miles from the only other human on the planet and finding him in six weeks, AND it just happens to be an old acquaintance!! I can't locate my own children in my own neighborhood half the time!! Lucky we don't have a time machine!

Charlie Harris
Tucson, AZ

You don't have a time machine? Gee, we thought EVERYONE had a time machine! Maybe if you wait a couple of years, the prices will come down just like VCR's and home computers. Seriously, Charlie, as you know by now, the Linear Man was guiding Superman—however haphazardly—through his time trips.

Dear Dan:

It was nice seeing Chronos again. I've been wondering just what he'd been doing in the past (after the Atom's and Blue Beetle's books were cancelled, there wasn't really any way to find out—when he appeared back in the present "time," his flashback wasn't long enough). Was it my imagination or did he actually look like Nixon in this issue?

On another point, I wanted to ask why every time Luthor's heir is mentioned, the scene shifts to Bibbo's Ace o' Clubs. Is this your sneaky way of springing on us the surprise that Luthor's missing heir is really Bibbo himself? Boy, that's going to make some real funny reading if it's true!

No need for me to tell you guys to keep up the great work; the Superman series as a whole is one of the best on the market, so you must know what you're doing! Keep on keeping on!

Mike Aragona
Montreal, Canada

Bibbo as head of LexCorp! Yikes! Metropolis is in enough trouble as it is! And no, Chronos wasn't supposed to look like Richard Nixon, he was supposed to look like Dan Ackroyd imitating Richard Nixon! Oh, well, Bob, back to the old drawing board!

Dear M.C., R.S., B.M., et al.:

ACTION #664. Very nice. Very nice. But then, all the Superman titles proceed along very nicely. Artwork's good, stories good. I think you missed something with Superman and his contemplations over conundrums on page 19, panel 1, though.

If he put a stop to the injustices of A'r'ven while they were happening and

destroyed the Host before it was built, then he would have created a time paradox, as there would have been no Host to be uncovered in SUPERMAN #5. Time would have violently reshuffled itself in a wonderful multi-colored, two-page spread, and you could start out SUPERMAN #55 with the same story, but in a new timeline in which Superman stumbles on the H'v'ler'ni by chance, may or may not battle them, depending on how they present themselves to him, and gets into a situation where he leaves a H'v'ler'ni civilization that possibly progresses just like the first, only no Host is ever built (and SUPERMAN #5 and #6 get relegated to the ever-increasing limbo of invalidated DC stories) or...a new Host is built after he leaves that is actually still sleeping in the "present" and which you could have him deal with in the future!

I think the six weeks he spent in the dinosaur age could have been expanded very nicely into another "solitude" issue like the one he spent farming on the planet in space during his "conscience quest," instead of being compressed between panels. Come to think of it, this is the second time Superman has been in extended isolation from other humans and come out somewhat okay. I mean, even with "Dino" for company, most people would have been pretty much at sanity's edge and been desperate for other humans by then, even a villain—especially when he'd had no prospects for return during that time. Supes was just a little standoffish. I have a theory about that.

As we know, normal Kryptonians were not a social bunch, spending most of their lives in towers of ice and communicating by holograms, when they did at all. Might a psychological propensity for isolation be, to an extent, genetic in Kryptonians? This would have implications if a villain ever tried to drive Superman insane through sensory deprivation. This underlying factor might also ultimately mean that he doesn't feel the same intensity of need for companionship that most humans normally do, because he isn't human (as we know his mother fully realizes, if not his dad). This could cause problems as we explore with Lois and Clark.

Hope you've enjoyed my musings as much as I enjoy your stories. Whattaya think? I've got more but I've gone on long enough. I'm outta here.

Al Tucker
New York, NY

You raise some very interesting questions, Al, and we agree that keeping Superman from not meddling much during his time traveling was a good idea.

Genetic emotional problems? Clark seems to have quite a bit of passion for the people he loves and the ideals he fights for, so it's doubtful that his heritage will affect him on that level.

O Exalted Super-Persons:

I am one of the Marvel zombies who originally began reading SUPERMAN because of John Byrne and I've still been collecting the Superman titles in the years since he left, and all I can say is... John who?

I am particularly pleased with the art. Dan Jurgens is a genuine star. Bob McLeod hasn't looked better since *New Mutants*. Thank you for bringing him aboard. Kerry Gammill's covers are extremely nice, and what can I say about Jerry Ordway that hasn't already been said a thousand times?

The real reason I'm writing is that I have a question about all the Superman titles that has been gnawing at every fiber of my consciousness for many a day, so please answer it for me and for anyone else who is wondering, namely: How exactly do three different writers each come up with their own stories every month and make them tie in with the other writers' individual stories which tie in with the general storyline that runs through all three titles? Case in point: The current "Time and Time Again" storyline. Somebody comes up with an idea. Fine. How do you get it all to click? I'm sure the writers don't live in the same state and they all have their own ideas about how the story should go. I am totally and completely puzzled as to how it is done. Please explain it to me.

By the by, will the fourth Superman title tie in with the others? I'm kind of hoping it doesn't, but you've got another subscriber for it. Thanks a lot!

Todd Meyers
Hallowell, MN

The secret behind the interlocking continuity is another one of those mysteries that only the Great Carlini himself could answer—and he ain't talkin' (Bob Harris may be reading—like he needs ideas from us!!) Needless to say, we make a LOT of photocopies!

SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL is already tying in with the other books, Todd—by popular demand.

Dear Dan:

I've had a lousy week. I got a cold from my mom, a bad report from school, trouble from my car, a parking ticket from the police, and the cold shoulder from my girlfriend.

Finally, the Friday I've waited three months for! ACTION #664 landed in my hands and all bad things came to an end! Not only did I see my name in print, but I won a Baldy, too! And the story was good, to boot!

THANKS A MILLION !!!

I don't suppose you could do it exactly this way every month, could you? I can't wait to see what I've won...a new car or a trip to the Bahamas? Thanks again.

Eric Skudlarczyk
St. Francis, WI

You're more than welcome, Eric, and although we couldn't afford to give you the car or the trip, we arranged to have Ed McMahon personally present this coveted award to you! (McMahon is your mailman's name, isn't it? Oh, well.)

Hello, Mike:

Since this "Time and Time Again" saga continues to be wonderful, I continue to be very pleased. One of my favorite scenes is the quick "update" on the present each issue. It shows what is happening in the present and also shows the readers that very little "real time" has elapsed.

Thanks for bringing back the Legion and having them interact with Superman several times. It was nice to see them in action, and I can't wait to see the battle with Dev-Em and the consequences spilling over to the Legion book.

No wedding comment or joke this letter. I am running out of wedding traditions and etiquette to comment on. Besides, my wife says that the comments were not funny. Everyone's a critic.

Jesse W. Jackson
Irving, TX

Don't let those barbs of criticism hold you back, Jesse; letter columns were created as a forum for lame jokes and bad puns! Go ahead, give us your best shot!

We would like to interrupt our regularly scheduled letter column to mention a letter that truly went beyond the call of duty. C.M. Brezaussek of Birmingham, AL sent us a very detailed chart of exactly what your average Superman comic would cost if it had increased in price at the average yearly inflation rate from 1938 to the present. According to the chart, ACTION COMICS would set you back \$3.19 a copy today! Our thanks for the detailed chart and good wishes, C.M. Your Baldy's in the mail!

Dear Mike and Dan:

Even if I weren't already enjoying the excellent "Time and Time Again" saga, the cover of ACTION COMICS #664 would have gotten me to buy this comic. Superman in the jaws of a Tyrannosaurus Rex. Wow, what an image! I wasn't even disappointed that it didn't exactly happen that way in the story. Even the appearance of Chronos's (who I don't care for) couldn't ruin my enjoyment of Supes's prehistoric adventure. It never ceases to amaze me how you guys pick up various plot elements from different DC titles, and make them seem just right for the story you're telling. If I hadn't already read Chronos's story (although he did mention running into Superman) in POWER OF THE ATOM #6, I would have believed you created it simply for this storyline. Everyone involved in this comic deserves a round of applause and a huge raise.

Finally, before I go, I do have one little complaint about ACTION COMICS #664. I thought "Drom," the cute dinosaur, was silly. Given the size of the average dinosaur's brain, I doubt a Dromiceiomimus would have followed Superman around, unless it was to try to eat him. Giving Superman a cute dinosaur companion was a mistake. It's not much of a complaint, but I don't want all of you getting swelled heads from all the letters that will be coming in to praise this issue.

So, until next month—Look, up in the sky...

Kevin W. Hall
Castlewood, VA

Drom, being a vegetarian, was not interested in eating Superman, but was certainly interested in the food the Man of Steel picked for him, which is usually a pet's main reason for sticking around!

—Dan Thorsland
Sheeshmeister General

IN ONE WEEK: Sunny Tattamalia is a great place to wind up a pleasant cruise for the Whites and the Kents—at least it was before Cerberus invaded it! Superman has his hands full trying to save the entire island, only to inadvertently cross paths with a Mexican god in this WAR OF THE GODS crossover! Some vacation, huh? Join us for **SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #3**, by Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove, and Dennis Janke.

IN TWO WEEKS: in **SUPERMAN #59**, Lois Lane is marrying the man who has cast himself in the role of the world's protector, and she can't help but wonder why Clark Kent became Superman. Join us as we see the forces that drive the Man of Steel—through the eyes of his greatest love. Brought to you by Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding.

IN THREE WEEKS: The being that murdered the occupants of an entire subway car is still at large in Metropolis. Can the Man of Steel stop him before he strikes again? Be here for the dramatic—and surprising—confrontation! All this and more in **ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #482**, by Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett, and Doug Hazlewood!

IN ONE MONTH: Two members of Intergang are beginning a crime spree in the streets of Metropolis, and the Man of Steel isn't the only one on their trail! Who is this mysterious vigilante long gone from the streets of Metropolis? Be here in thirty to find out. PLUS: The Kents and the Lanes meet for the first time! Be here for **ACTION COMICS #669**, by Roger Stern, Bob McLeod, and Denis Rodier.

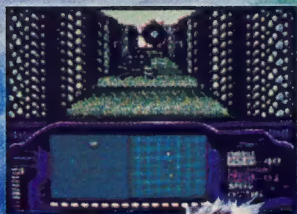
This month's cover was pencilled by Dan Jurgens, inked by Bob McLeod, and colored by Brett Breeding. Oooo, scary, kiddies!



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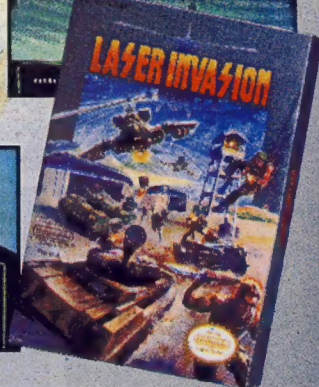


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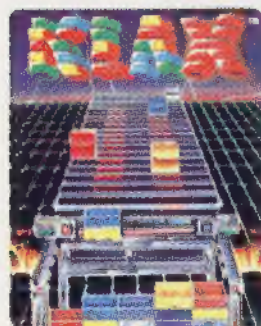
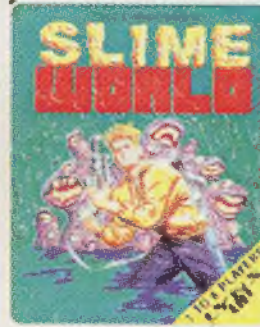
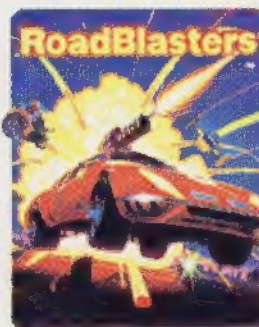
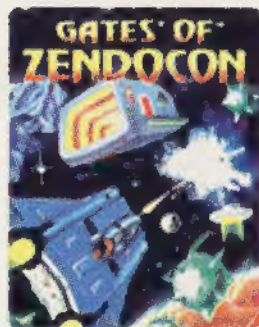
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